

Can men and women be “just friends?”

It's only natural for opposites to attract—so don't try and fight it

Keep it in your pants: you don't have to screw everything in sight



AMANDA
TERMEER

point

Face it, Paul: any friendship between men and women has undertones of sexuality. Biology makes men desperate to spread their seed and makes women want to bare children. This animalistic condition is unavoidable. Any connection made between men and women is based on this simple evolutionary process, whether the couple in question is conscious of the desire to procreate or not. Strictly platonic friendships are biologically impossible.

However, many men and women have attempted to defy biology through the formation of alleged non-sexual relationships. Although these friendships begin innocently enough, one member of the twosome inevitably develops a lust for the other. Unfortunately, after this carnal desire is revealed, the counterpart often immediately loses interest. This twisted version of cat and mouse then causes the friendship to fall apart.

People love to be chased and desired; friendships can gain a lot through sexual tension. The initial chemistry between two members of the opposite sex creates a fulfilling and exciting relationship. After a while, however, the sexual chemistry boils over, leading either to a hookup—or a breakup. After a hookup, the couple is forced to consider the possibility of a lasting relationship, in which case the original friendship is destroyed.

Even if the couple decides to ignore the inevitable hookup, the friendship is suddenly forced to evolve. Quite often the sexual tension leads to more hookups, and

the platonic friendship is forced into the domain of “friends with benefits.” Regardless, the friendship loses its innocence and enters the world of sexuality.

Ernest Hemingway wrote of male bonding being based on misogyny and homophobia, and that when women enter this realm, male friendships tend to fall apart. Moreover, men are suddenly put in an uncomfortable arena of sexual tension and are unable to function as “just” men; instead, they're forced to put on a sort of act for women.

Females also put on an act around men, whether by flaunting their physical prowess through makeup and revealing clothes, or by variously fawning or masking interest in their potential partners.

Dance clubs are excellent for observing the bleak interactions between men and women because they put humans in the position to be blatantly sexual. In this case, men and women put on acts for each other, preventing a true and honest friendship from forming.

The only friendships men and women can have are with outcasts of the gender arena. For example, masculine females, or tomboys, are quite comfortable hanging out with the guys. Effeminate males, on the other hand, fit in better with a gaggle of female counterparts. However, the typical heterosexual members of each sex are unlikely to form friendships with each other.

Essentially, friendships between males and females are impossible. Biology prohibits platonic friendships because sexual tension clouds rational thinking, thus making hookups appear almost inevitable. In the words of Oscar Wilde: “Between men and women there is no friendship possible. There is passion, enmity, worship, love, but no friendship.”



PAUL
KNOECHEL

counterpoint

Despite how it may seem, sex isn't the only desire men are built with. For example, I would love to rob a bank or bitch-slap certain individuals who shall go unnamed. But just because I have these desires occasionally doesn't mean I can't use banks regularly and without difficulty, nor that I can't hold calm, violence-free conversations with the aforementioned individuals. Much the same way, men and women can hold back on this supposedly all-consuming biological drive and not only be “just friends,” but great friends at that.

Of course, there are unique challenges to the male-female relationship, but I would suggest that there are even more challenges in male-male and female-female relationships. Sure, there might be a little bit of sexual tension in some instances of heterosexual male-female interaction, but for most people that's pretty standard. On the other hand, experiencing sexual tension with members of your own gender can, depending on your preferred sexual orientation, tear a relationship to shreds with its awkwardness.

Tensions can also arise between same-gender friends over competition for that special girl or guy, as well as over asking those friends advice about the relationship once they have that special person—and anger over the terrible results of said advice.

I believe it was Aristotle—or was it Paula Abdul?—who so wisely said “opposites attract.” And when you're talking about opposites, it's difficult to beat the polar

opposites of men and women. Biologically, we're built rather differently and are governed by different sets hormones; socially, the roles we're subjected to shape us in some way or another as well.

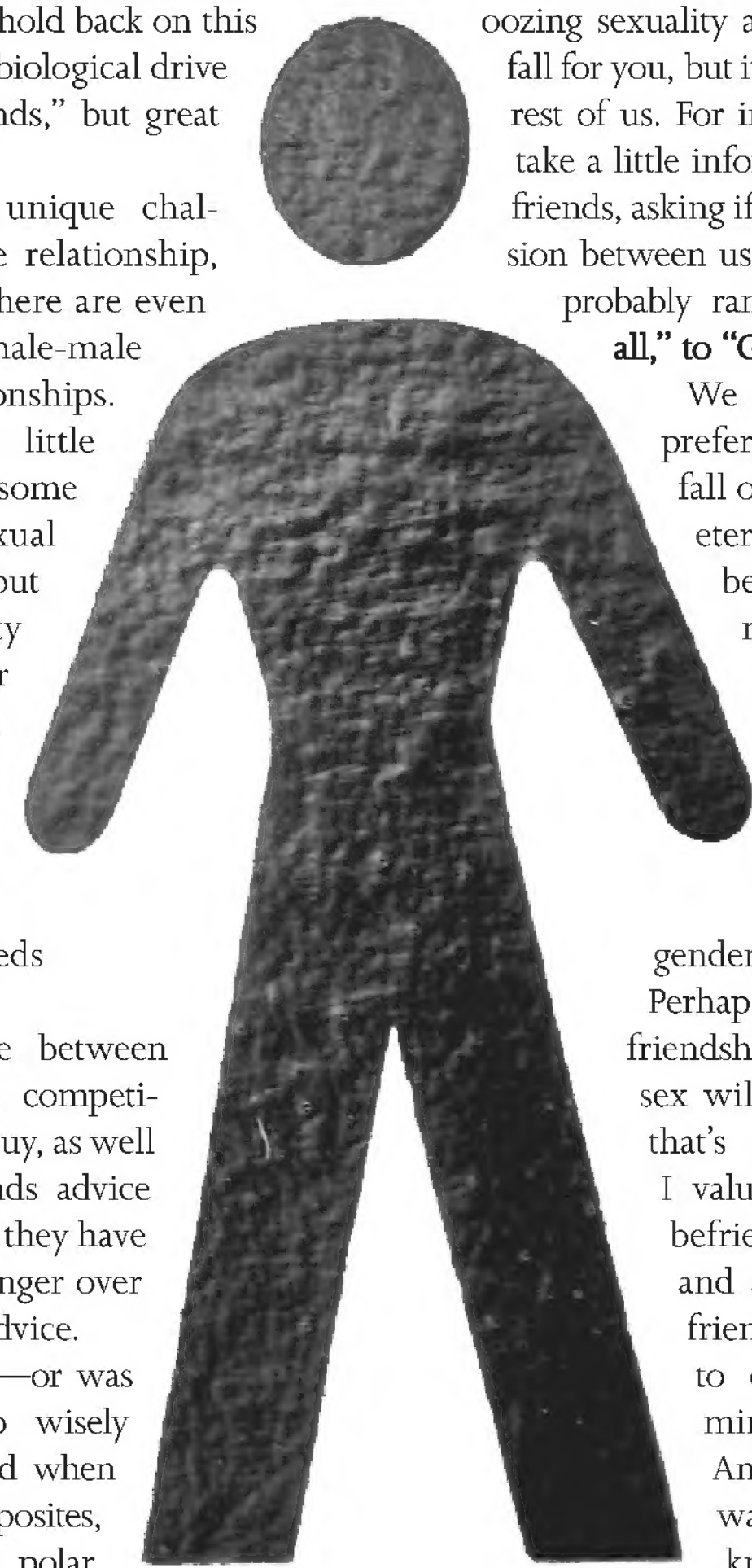
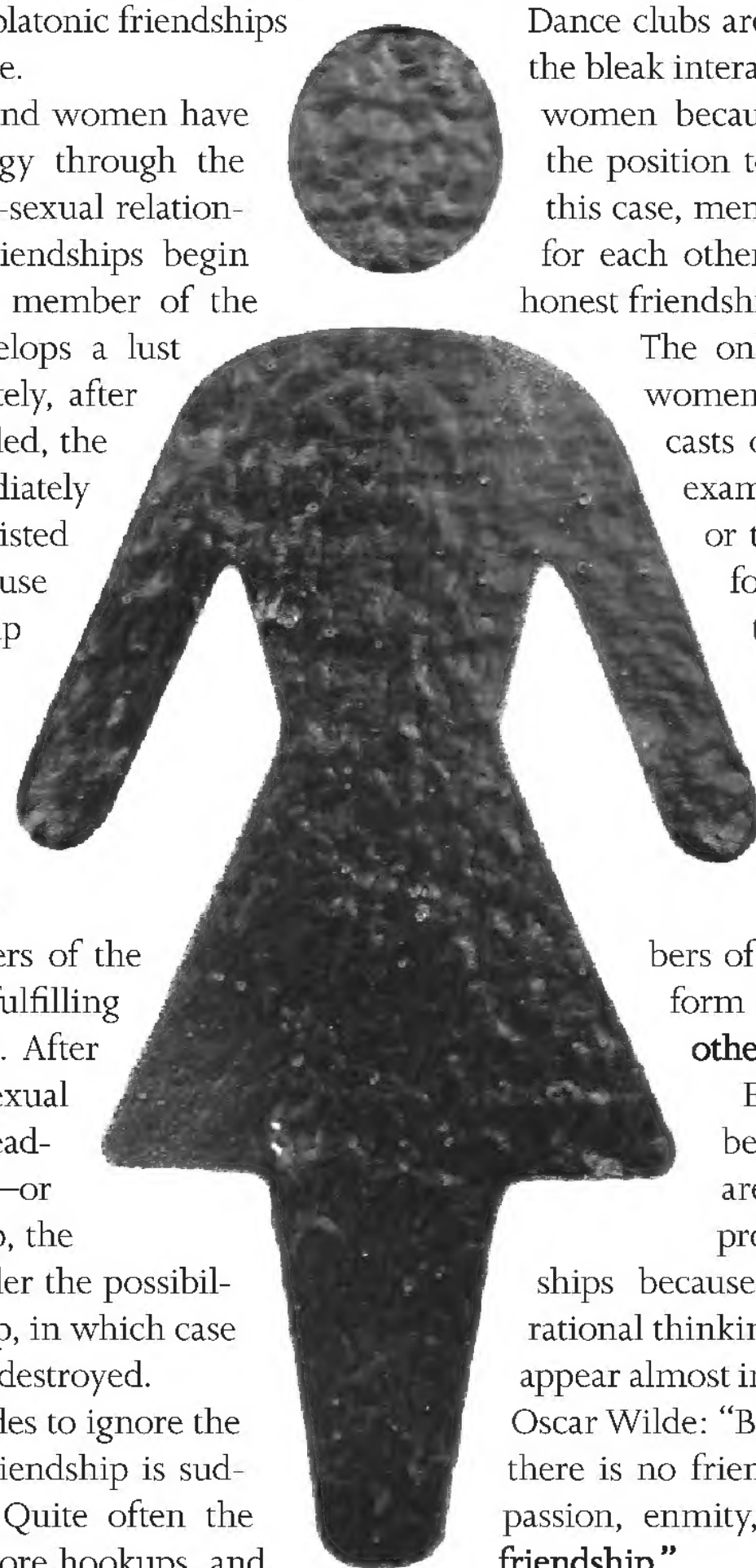
I say thank God for that, since it's because of these differences that friendships can be built around the exchange of advice between the sexes. Both parties benefit from this exchange, and though I personally like to think I'm just a wonderful boyfriend, I must admit that my own relationships have often gained from some female insight. In exchange, I've been able to share my own knowledge with my female friends—especially in bars.

It's also a fact that a lot of male-female relationships simply have zero sexual chemistry. Now I don't know about you over there, Amanda, oozing sexuality and having all the boys fall for you, but it's quite different for the rest of us. For instance, if you were to take a little informal poll of my female friends, asking if there's been sexual tension between us, your responses would probably range from, “No, not at all,” to “Gross.”

We all have our sexual preferences, and when you fall outside of those parameters, there's no tension because there's simply no attraction.

Without this attraction, the only reason the friendship will fail in this case (if it does at all) is going to be something non-gender-specific.

Perhaps for some people, friendships with the opposite sex will never work out, and that's simply unfortunate. I value all the women I've befriended over the years, and am confident that our friendships aren't doomed to collapse into a quagmire of sexual tension. And besides, Oscar Wilde was gay—what would he know about this?



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MATT FREHNER

PC convention all steak, no sizzle

It's like there's a party in Alberta, and only conservative people are invited

MATT
FREHNER

Stepping into the Conservative leadership forum at St Albert's Arden Theatre yesterday, I felt a little bit like Hunter S Thompson at that police convention in Vegas: suddenly on the inside of a mysterious and exclusive club. Only, if there's one thing the Tories ostensibly aren't, its exclusive—the buzzwords of the night for these popularists were "accountability" and "transparency," and many talked at length of respecting the views of their constituents.

"Constituents," though, is not a synonym for "all Albertans," despite what these leadership hopefuls might think. Edmonton as a whole is no longer Tory-backing, and apart the token university-age supporter that each candidate brought along, the theatre was overflowing with expanded waistlines and grey hairs. And while there was some vague discussion about education, the term "postsecondary" was dropped exactly twice—the same number of times someone referenced 9/11.

The forum's opening remarks were lead by Ed "small man, big pins" Stelmach, who outlined with clinical precision his plans for Alberta's health care and infrastructure—and barely once looked up from his typed notes.

Dr Lyle Oberg followed, his passion for health care shining through as he discussed the need to privatize select services while maintaining a strong public system through mandatory public hours for each doctor. He also set himself apart from other candidates by not damning the federal transfer program outright because of what he described as a need to respect the rest of Canada.

Alberta-centric Ted Morton was the polar opposite, championing tighter links between western provincial

governments as well as a desire to halt the increase of transfer payments while diverting the money saved back into Alberta—a comment that Jim Dinning "misinterpreted" as a call for higher taxes and something that I'm sure Morton opposes.

Due to the format of the event, however, Ted was unable to respond to this or any other comment he disagreed with, and bottling up one's emotions is never good for the complexion. Morton's face became increasingly flush as the night progressed, especially when Alana DeLong made her sole significant comment of the night, proclaiming same-sex marriage a tired issue to gasps of audience disapproval.

Here's a hint, Mr Herard: when the media confirms a policy initiative through a chance comment at a candidate forum, you're not doing a very good job.

This admirable conviction aside, Delong failed to stand out in any other regard: her answers were always vague, laboured and filled with platitudes. It's unfortunate, but I got the impression that she was there only as a "she"—the token female candidate, there to show that the party is not just middle-aged men with sensible ties.

Speaking of somber attire, Victor Doerksen's getup was as austere as his personality, while Dave Hancock stood out with his patterned tie and tan pants. Dave wasn't all glamour and glitz, though: the only candidate to speak confidently without notes, his grasp of the issues went beyond the minutiae without devolving into generalizations—well, most of the time anyway. He was also the most left-leaning Tory of the bunch; I get the impression that Hancock would have ran for the Liberals, except that

in Alberta being a Conservative is a sounder career choice.

Gary McPherson pleaded for us to look past his wheelchair and examine his credentials, but unfortunately he spent too much time cracking jokes and not enough time convincing people that his views were at all nuanced.

The only two who could hold the floor against Hancock were Mark Norris and Jim Dinning. While a good speaker, Norris spent too much time trying to be the good guy, and as a result ended up patronizing the audience and his opponents with empty promises of fair play and Cabinet seats, respectively. Dinning, on the other hand knew where he stood on each issue and articulated it clearly—though his stance on pay packages for health care administrators was a bit appalling.

The unexpected gem of the evening came from Dinning, too. When asked about how he would reform postsecondary education, he explicitly mentioned pulling out of the Canadian Student Loan Program, a policy move that Alberta's own Minister of Advanced Education Denis Herard has steadfastly avoided commenting on until continually pressed. A most amusing slip, considering the efforts each candidate has put into promoting government transparency. Here's a hint, Mr Herard: when the media confirms a policy initiative through a chance comment at a candidate forum, you're not doing a very good job.

Most candidates lacked either a pulse or a grasp of the issues, but few had both. If all of Alberta were to vote for the new Conservative leader, I would guess (or maybe hope) that Hancock would get the nod. But based on the last night's audience and each candidate's charisma, I expect Dinning will be the one to lead the PCs into a general election. So, if Dinning isn't your man, this isn't the time to be an ideologue: go out, spend \$5 on a Conservative membership, and vote for the leader of your choice. Because we all know that here in Alberta, the PC leadership convention is the real election.

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Let's put the 'fun' back in funeral



TYSON
DURST

proceedings in the black, so to speak, I dare say some people might call me a posthumous pioneer who decided to think outside the box.

Since human taxidermy is apparently illegal, I would like this gala event to incorporate the latest in android-robotics technology instead. If I'm to be incinerated by a laser blast in 50 years or so, it should be by something even more advanced than what the Japanese have right now—which is impressively detailed in the latest issue of my favorite technology magazine. Additionally, an eerily detailed, anatomically-correct robotic replica of me in my prime, with authentic, pre-recorded phrases to greet people and shake their hands at the door, would be nothing short of awesome.

videogames.

The best part is, I wouldn't pay a dime for my posthumous robotic counterpart. The companies who put together this amazing leap in android awesomeness would be only too happy to get the huge exposure that I only hope my revolutionary spectacle of a remembrance would bring.

Apart from this combination of razzle and dazzle, you'd need some actual content for people to latch onto and tie the whole thing together, whether they're clones, cybernetically, genetically or pharmaceutically enhanced people, altered primates, or even genuine humans.

I really don't want people to mourn as they walk by my burial bonanza and sit in their enhanced ergonomic recliners, either. Therefore, a full three-dimensional retrospective of my humble life, complete with an original musical score conducted by John Williams—who happens to still be living thanks to a timely head-body transplant—will, with any luck, make funeral-goers wanna party like it's 2099.

Confetti, cake, balloons, animals, clowns that can make balloon animals and some primates dressed in suits sitting in armchairs smoking old-fashioned pipes while discussing the finer points of literature and politics would then cap off the festivities.

As for the manner in which I depart, I can only hope that when the Grim Reaper comes for my soul, that reports of my death are on the unorthodox side, worthy of conversation around the water-dispensing droid.

Going out in style doing what you love—take the late, great Steve Irwin for example—tends to be rare in this eternal lottery of ours that nobody seems to want to win. Then again, with a funeral like this, it doesn't really matter how I get there, just as long as I do.

There's only one thing that anyone can be certain of in this life, and that of course is death. Perhaps it's just a coping mechanism, but people rarely seem to acknowledge the truth of their own mortality. Instead, they think that maybe they might escape that moment at some unforeseen point in the future when they reach the end of their cosmic journey through the physical universe.

I don't know exactly how and when the composition of atoms that make up my body will expire and rejoin the dust of planets and stars, but I do know that when my final wishes are carried out, my coffin party will fly right in the face of traditional Western customs and expectations at funerals.

First off, funerals are an expensive business, and I personally dislike the thought that, as a corpse, I would be a crippling financial burden to my loved ones, if not a physical one.

This is where corporate sponsorship comes in: at over six feet tall, my sleek, black coffin would have plenty of space for logos and slogans.

Think about it. What do people at a funeral stare at for a few hours? The coffin. Why not debut your latest product, software, or revamped logo and slogan by plastering it on the side of my death box? Set up a Podcast and get wider exposure on the web.

Call me crass. Call me a sellout. But if my family and friends can't simply cover the cost of the funeral with my ideas but also turn a profit and put the

**What do people at
a funeral stare at for
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coffin. Why not debut
your latest product,
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plastering it on the side
of my death box?**

Combine this with artificial intelligence software that synthesizes my voice and extrapolates my most likely responses to people's questions and comments, and my computerized cadaver would be a surefire hit.

The Tyson-O-Tron 3000, as I have decided to call it, would also have a foldout multimedia center in its chest with a Virtual Reality cerebral attachment to demo the latest holographic

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It's my party and I'll bitch if I want to



ELIZABETH
VAIL

I'm an irrational person. It's my nature. Some of the time, I'm content to sit quietly in class and not explode into devious giggling every time someone says something completely baseless and ignorant—which is most of the time, let's face it. But there are also a large number of times when I just want to give in to madness and burst into random fits of screaming hysteria, make sugar and Tylenol my primary food source, and blame all of the world's problems on everyone who currently sports a penis. I live in Canada, goddamn it. It's my right to be a bitch.

However, according to some absurd, ignorant and chauvinistic beliefs that have circulated amongst the male community since there have been male communities amongst which to circulate, it *shouldn't* be my right. The first instance of this, I assume, would have been when Eve told Adam, "Fuck the goddamn apple! Go out and get me some chocolate before I have a nervous breakdown!"

"Huh, must be your time of the month."

Stereotypes like this impinge on the Holy Right of Bitchiness. As a woman who *wants* to be unreasonable,

"As a woman who wants to be unreasonable, judgmental and bad-tempered at any given time, should I have to check my calendar and see if this falls within the designated four-to-ten-day period when it is socially acceptable, or at least expected, for a woman to go on an uninhibited hell-rampage?"

judgmental and bad-tempered at any given time, should I have to check my calendar and see if this falls within the designated four-to-ten-day period when it is expected, or at least acceptable, for a woman to go on an uninhibited hell-rampage? Screw that—I'm going to be a deluded, self-righteous tyrant whenever I damn well feel like it.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying it's every woman's dream to find new ways to verbally, psychologically and physically emasculate members of the male sex who happen to annoy her—most women tend to be a shade more restrained than that.

But whenever they do give in to the urge to express their rage, many guys will fall back onto the assumption that the phase of the moon, the turning of the tides or the labyrinthine corridors of the female reproductive system are responsible for a woman's willingness lose her temper in public.

Fellas, there isn't a point in a young girl's life when she gets bitten by some sort of menstrual werewolf, thereby condemning her to the life of a lycanthropic bitch that transforms by the light of the moon into a ravening, half-crazed and overly aggressive beast

until the silver bullet of menopause ends the cycle.

Quite frankly, I'm insulted by this idea, because it implies that I'm expected to be reasonable, mild-mannered and kind-hearted for the remaining 23 days of the month. I don't need a biological excuse to be a bitch. God knows, men certainly don't have one for their behaviour—and you only have to turn on *Fox News* to see the impressive extent of their ass-hat-ery.

It's true that women can be judgmental, cruel, frightening, outrageous and just plain mean, but we are responsible for our own behaviour. So don't be afraid to call us on our shit either, but not just because you think that for one week out of every month we have no control over our emotions. If I'm a bitch, I'm a bitch because I choose to be, not because Aunt Rose is whispering anti-male propaganda in my ear.

It's so nice to know that when we choose to lose our tempers, emasculate you in front of your friends, or call you on your ridiculously macho bullshit, it's not because you guys are assholes. It's because of the monthly Uterus Olympics.

Drug cartels rife with gender inequality



CONAL
PIERSE

In my spare time I like to read news from around the world. This serves two purposes: first, it makes the rest of the world seem like a terrible and frightening place that I don't want to visit—which is a good thing because I can't afford to travel. Second, the news is a good cover window to have when surfing for porn—it adds a certain amount of sophistication to the depravity. But the other day, I came across a story that made me furiously limp.

A gang referring to themselves simply as "The Family" stormed into a Mexican nightclub and ordered the customers onto the ground, after which they proceeded to toss five freshly severed human heads onto the dance floor along with a handwritten note. This note claimed that "the family does not kill for money. It does not kill women. It does not kill innocents. It kills only those who deserve to die. Everyone should know, this is divine justice."

The act is believed to be part of the escalating turf war between rival drug cartels in the area. I find this act to be utterly despicable and a terrible shame. In this modern world we live in, it's incredibly sexist to assume that women cannot be killed by a drug cartel too—or belong to one for that matter. Women have worked hard to prove that they're equal to men in all aspects, and I feel that the same is true for their capacity for evil. Who am I to say that women aren't as capable of

blood-thirst as I am, or that a woman couldn't organize and carry out a full-fledged massacre?

Women like Catherine the Great, Rana Valona, Aileen Wournos and Martha Stewart have demonstrated to the world that the inner circles of hell are not reserved for men alone. These brave trailblazers have paved the way for future generations of evil women by slaughtering subjects, killing johns and whipping interns with extension cords for failing to understand the difference between a French press and a milk frother.

Despite all this, it's sad to see that the role of women continues to be overlooked in the drug industry. True, there don't seem to be many female drug lords or even high ranking cartel members, but this is due to the glass ceiling that prevents woman from climbing the bloody rungs of the cartel ladder than as a result of a lack of women working in the drug industry. The drug world still promotes the heavily chauvinistic attitude that women should "get back in the kitchen and bake some crack," and that they aren't suited to the business aspect of the cartel. These attitudes prevent women from rising much higher than lowly positions such as distributors and mules, while the role of drug baron seems more of a dream than a possibility to most. In the *legal* business world, women face problems at the top too, but their troubles pale in comparison to those faced by women who choose a career in crime.

Unfortunately these problems won't be easily solved, and it will take some brave women with condoms full of heroine up their asses who are willing to do whatever it takes so that future generations of women can finally get a piece of the big rock in the sky.

It may seem impertinent to have to reiterate such a basic tenet of classroom etiquette, but believe it or not, there are people talking in their classes at any given time on this campus.

I don't mean people asking questions of their instructors, or even briefly asking a neighbour for clarification. No: I speak of a much greater scourge. While occasionally annoying, the two previous examples are well within the boundaries of common classroom decorum.

Not within these boundaries, on the other hand, are those incredibly aggravating personal conversations some of the more boorish students on campus insist on having in the middle of class.

Let's face it: your gossip about who hooked up with whom, who said or did what to whom or whatever you're going to do on the weekend can wait until after class. If it can't, then go get a coffee, and let those who are in class to learn do so in peace.

Some of us worked very hard to be here, and we really want to stay here to. So if you can't bring yourself to take your classes seriously, don't penalize those of us who do. But if you do, then get into the sack and stay there for a while.

PATRICK ROSS

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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... now what?



As you may have noticed, there are 15 000 undergraduate males floating around campus, many of them sexy, many of them single. You may have had a fail-proof plan of attack in high school, seducing your way from mate to mate, and always with a surplus of admirers from the periphery, but university is a whole new playing field with a whole new set of rules. Gone are the days when your best friend's cousin could pass your crush a note and suddenly love would blossom—if that ever really was a good idea. The best approach is always the most direct; after all, confidence is sexy. If someone strikes your fancy, take a chance, be bold and ask that person out.

*Feature by Chloé Fedio
and Natalie Climenhaga*

*Photos by Josh Nault
and Stephen Beckman*





Know what you're dealing with

Men like to lament that women are confusingly complicated while they themselves are simple creatures, without much mystery to uncover. This is just not true. There are wide variety of guys out there who each present their own unique challenges in a relationships, so read on to find out more about them.

Camp counsellor

You've seen him on campus, wearing a multi-compartment backpack with a sexy five o'clock shadow, zooming across Quad on his one-speed mountain bike. He likes adventure and foreign cuisine, and though he may be health-conscious, he's not a weird hippie type. This guy is the most likely to call you high maintenance, so if you like your curling iron and high heels, be prepared for compromise.

All things to all people

He talks loudly in public places about his many sexual escapades—with both women *and* men. And though the sexual experimentation might intrigue you, if you're likely to get jealous when he's checking out the entire room (keeping in mind that as a woman, competing with a man is a tricky undertaking) maybe stick with the more traditional, heterosexual man.

The philosopher

He wears polyester pants and has a venomous distaste for everything "corporate." If you can accept that he will never be wrong—or enjoy spending hours debating minute details about obscure topics—perhaps you can also accept intellectual sparing instead of cuddling after sex. At the very least, the philosopher will give you something to think about.

The douche

Welcome to the popped collar. Beware.

The varsity athlete

Remember how cocky the team captain was in high school? Imagine a team full of team captains from different high schools, coming together under the successful Golden Bears, and you're bound to be faced with a lot of ego. These guys usually travel in packs, so look for an opportunity to get him alone

and out of the gym. The athlete is especially easy to research (see investigationalism).

The hipster

With an asymmetrical haircut, girl pants and a blazer decked with lots of buttons, this guy probably spent more time getting ready in the morning than you did. Though he's the least likely to call you high maintenance, he will at some point, belittle you for your taste in music. Luckily, this is balanced by the fact that he will introduce you to the latest trends. Keep in mind: just because he's wearing a pink t-shirt doesn't mean he's gay.

Can't find a date?

The sea of men is just too large and you can't decide where to focus your energies, so you head down to one of the most obvious meat markets on a Thursday night with the hopes that you'll meet someone nice. Your evening will probably leave you disillusioned, unable to understand why that guy who was really into you during "Sexy Back" never called, even though he said you were the absolute best kisser in the world. Even without the dance floor, which lends itself to inappropriate public groping, a night of drunken debauchery on St Patrick's Day at RATT could just as easily cloud your judgment. Sometimes, you will meet someone at the places where you least expect it, like the photocopiers at Cameron library, or between the stacks on the fifth floor of Rutherford North. Making eye contact (and I don't mean staring) can quickly turn into small talk, so go with it. Or maybe you'll walk into a Safeway store and bond with an attractive young chap over low-cholesterol eggs. Seriously, wear a backpack, it'll scream student. Take a risk and agree to a date; you might be pleasantly surprised.

Where to go on a first date

Going for coffee is always a safe bet for a first date. Most people are flattered and surprised to be hit on, and (if single) will rarely say no to an invite for coffee. This is a low-pressure date that can turn into a subsequent meal or movie or romantic walk across the High Level bridge, but can just as easily end after a mere 20 minutes, when one or both parties spontaneously remember that they absolutely have to do right now. Due to the

fact that most university students are bordering broke, always assume that you're going Dutch. But, paying for two is a nice gesture and a good way to plant the seed for a next date with a simple, "You can pay next time."

A study date may seem lame, but it's actually a pretty safe way to get to know someone a little better. Conversation can quickly evolve from the functions of the brain to what you did last weekend, and if it runs dry you can always turn back to your textbook for material. Like the coffee date, a study date can turn into a completely different activity, so make sure you don't have a mid-term the next day if you do decide to abandon studying.

Some relationships progress quickly and instantaneous coupledness is born, but this is rare. Be wary of launching yourself headfirst into a relationship with someone you just met. And, unlike in high school, one date—or even ten dates—does not qualify you as a couple. If you are unsure of your couple status, ask, but don't drop the "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" tag until you're sure.

The Unwanted Date

Sometimes you'll end up agreeing to a date you really would rather not attend. Maybe you were caught off guard by the request, or really have a difficulty time saying no to a potentially free dinner, but either way, once you hand out your phone number, be prepared to face the consequences. Most guys will only try to contact you once, leaving the ball in your court once they make the initial call. But there's also the more troubling scenario: when a guy just doesn't get the message that you're not interested when you fail to call him back. Maybe you'll accidentally answer his call and have to pretend that you're actually your roommate, while the real you is attending her favorite grandmother's funeral. But this isn't pleasant, and could be avoided by just saying no in the first place. There's no easy way to deal with an unwanted date, but ultimately, you *will* have to do it. Inevitably, if you don't return that phone call after you gave some guy your number in a moment of weakness, he'll end up sitting beside you in your PSYCH 104 class—and you'll have to avoid eye contact for an entire semester, or fumble to explain that you accidentally deleted his message. The best approach is always the most direct.

Investigationalism: And once you know, find out more ...

Thanks to the wonders of the Internet, researching people has never been easier. Some may say that this isn't only an invasion of privacy, but also entirely creepy. Trust us: they're guilty of researching someone too, but are careful enough to delete their search histories afterwards.

Google is the fastest and easiest way to access information. You should embrace the idea; not only is it fun, but it's extremely resourceful. It's amazing how much you can learn about someone by simply typing their name, preferably in quotations, in a search engine. If he has a common name, you may have to resort to an advanced search, adding a qualifier (like +Edmonton or +basketball, depending on what you know about him) to filter through the results. Other gold mines of information include blogs, Myspace or Facebook—you shouldn't shy away from using them.

What you find	What it means
A hundred billion pictures on his Facebook profile.	Whoa, narcissism.
He is a British Lord born in 1819.	This is not the man you are looking for. Narrow the search!
He plays a sport.	Excellent! Now do a bit more research and you'll have an excellent conversation starter.
He was a contestant on Canadian Idol	Your work has just begun. Try to find a link of his TV performance on youtube.com
His blog	Read it to find out more!



Dating: the transition from high school boyfriend to university boyfriend

If you are currently in a relationship, these are things you should never do:

Fight via e-mail

Many of us have laptops nowadays, making instant messaging and emailing as common a means of communication as phone calls. Under no circumstances should disputes be carried out in written form, however. The reasons are simple and logical: anything that can be read over and over will inevitably be misread. Not to mention that while the spur of the moment emotions you felt at the time of your feverish typing may have fizzled by the time the "your message has been sent" page comes up, the recipient of your communiqué is going to feel the full effect of your momentary wrath.

Say you want to take a break

This is otherwise known as breaking up without balls. If you no longer want to be with someone, just bite the bullet and break up. A break suggests that you plan on getting back together at some point, but if you really want to be with someone you wouldn't be taking a break in the first place. It might be hard to let go, or even think of moving on, but it's completely selfish to expect your boyfriend to sit in waiting while you figure things out. If you're worried about making the hugest mistake of your life, just remember that breaking up for the time being doesn't mean that the door is permanently closed, and if your relationship is "meant to be" you may find each other again a few years down the line.

Take a class together

You may think that this will provide a great way to spend some quality time with that special someone, but it's a very bad idea. For one thing, even the most uncompetitive individuals can become obsessed with not being the "dumber" one in the relationship. Not to mention it becomes very difficult to stay focused on a lecture if you're in the middle of fighting with your boyfriend/girlfriend. You're far better off arranging to have breaks at the same time than committing to a semester of saving each other a seat.



One Night Stands

We won't judge you for having one, but bear in mind that taking someone home drunk from the bar doesn't mean you have now begun a relationship with this person. As the name entails, these encounters are defined by the length of one night. If you do choose to hook up with someone, remember to play it safe and use protection, but don't expect a follow up call. (You may get one but if you don't you'd be part of the majority.) And if you're the type of person who takes this lack of subsequent contact for being blown off, you're better off not putting yourself into such a situation. This is *not* the way to start a relationship, despite what the \$2.50 high-balls might be telling you.

Challenges

Long-distance relationships

Passing judgment on whether or not long-distance relationships can in fact work would be about as fair as declaring whether or not relationships in general can work. The success or failure of any long-distance relationship will vary from couple to couple. However, as a generally rule, the greater the distance, the more complicated the relationship becomes. You can't casually date someone who lives in another city, province or country, so if you're in, you have to be all in. And for those of you who choose to remain fully monogamous there needs to be an extreme level of trust.

This isn't to say that long-distance relationships are impossible, but they do require a lot of work. Make sure to set some ground rules and talk about it face to face, before the move has happened to avoid late-night phone fights, or worse yet, sending a drunken e-mail. Ground rules need to be set right from the beginning to avoid confusion on how committed you're going to be while apart. Fortunately, modern technology has made staying in touch extremely easy and inexpensive. And while being separated is hard, it outweighs breaking up with someone you care about for purely geographic reasons.

Cheating isn't just physical

Just because you haven't physically done anything with that cute guy you flirt with in English doesn't mean you're not cheating. Let us explain emotional cheating: if you constantly find yourself thinking, talking, dreaming and possibly masturbating about someone other than your boyfriend, this is a serious problem. Even if you haven't acted on your feelings, the intense attraction is still there and you should take some time to reassess why you're so interested in this person. That's not to say that a little bit of flirting with someone other than your boyfriend isn't perfectly natural, but if you're going out of your way to spend time with that person alone, or know their schedule as good as your own and work around it, you should deal with it immediately.

Breaking Off High School Relationships

For the majority of high school relationships that carry into university, a common theme is the eventual break up. To be fair, every now and then, a fairytale love affair exists, blossoming from holding hands in the sandbox to eventual marriage, but that's generally because God frowns on premarital sex.

If you are currently in a high school puppy-love relationship, you may be thinking, "No, not me. This is loooovveee, I have found my soulmate!" Whatever—give it a semester or two. Many of us have been there and eventually reality will set it and you'll learn that people change and grow apart—even if you are in university together.

However, long-term relationships are the hardest to break off due to a combination habit, guilt or a sense of comfort and safety, telling you that you'll be a bad person for dumping your boyfriend after so many months or years together. But staying with someone for any reason other than a genuine interest is foolish—you're wasting both of your time.

You may also be worried about how the dynamic of your circle of friends will change. But regardless of whether or not you continue to date your high school boyfriend, your circle of friends will undoubtedly change as you progress in your university career. So if you are worried that everyone in your ex-spate group will judge you for breaking so-and-so's heart, keep in mind that now is the perfect time to be making new friends anyway.



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Greg MacPherson

With Robin Hunter and Christian Hansen
Thursday, 14 September at 8pm
The Powerplant
Tickets \$10 at the door

The well-toured, Winnipeg-bred musician Greg MacPherson returns to Edmonton, melding prairie folk styles and rock into a sound that is unique. MacPherson always puts on an entertaining show—besides, it makes going to the Powerplant a little bit better (if their buffet isn't enticing enough).

Yvon Bonenfant

Extending Voice, Extending Gesture
Friday, 15 September at 8pm
The Landing Pad (#201-10923 101 Street)
Tickets \$12 non-members, \$10 members

Yvon Bonenfant is an International Artist-in-Residence who thrives on combining classical and jazz singing with his own unique style. The guest artist at Mile Zero Dance will be performing a 45 minute solo piece that combines vocal proficiency with an emotional stage performance, focusing on the passions of love and life.



Blood Meridian

With Bramwell Park & the Leftovers and These Hands
Saturday, 16 September at 8pm
Sidetrack Café
Tickets \$10 in advance

Vancouver-based Blood Meridian hit the stage at the Sidetrack to promote their debut album, *Kick Up the Dust*. Mixing punk rock with country and blues, the band's album was mixed by the same producers who helped out Nirvana and The Tragically Hip. For only just releasing their debut album, Blood Meridian is already turning heads.

The Yoko Casionos

With Elias, The Harlots and Devilsplender
Friday, 15 September at 8pm
The Powerplant
Tickets \$8 at the door

If you didn't get enough of the Powerplant after seeing Greg MacPherson, you'll be 'Planted-out after seeing Vancouver's The Yoko Casionos. Described as indie alt-rockers on their Myspace page (the definitive locale for music commentary), the band is touring to promote the release of their debut album, *These Are The New Old Times*. Based on the streaming audio from their website, they sound quite mature for a new band, so it should be a good listen.

The Wailin' Jennys

With Mark Davis
Saturday, 16 September at 7pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre
Tickets \$16 advance at Blackbyrd Myoozik, Listen Records, Megatunes, the Powerplant, SU Info booths and Ticketmaster

Singing-songwriting trio The Wailin' Jennys are touring to support their hot, much anticipated sophomore album, *Firecracker*. In 2004, they won a Juno for the best Roots/Traditional for their debut, *40 Days*. The Jennys are just another band from the 'Peg, seemingly completing the chain of Winnipeg or Vancouver based groups destined for E-town this weekend.

JOHN KMECH
A&E pet hamster

Painting from a new Pallett

Final Fantasy's Owen Pallett is testing his true, solo colors, and they're blending quite nicely

Final Fantasy

With Bob Wiseman and the Phonemes
Saturday, 16 September at 8pm
The Powerplant

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For those of you who've kept your eyes and ears tuned towards Canada's ever-growing music scene, you've probably unwittingly stumbled over the feathery, iron-welded sounds of Owen Pallett.

A violinist and vocalist by nature, Pallett has been one of the most influential hands behind the recordings of noteworthy Canadian acts such as the Hidden Cameras and the Arcade Fire. Pallett has brushed his talents onto many different musical canvases, never fully focused his own career. But, now that his solo work under the moniker Final Fantasy is beginning to pick up steam, fans and critical acclaim, he's undoubtedly going to become a staple in his own right.

"I've been playing in bands since I was 16, but [I've also been] composing classical music on my own," Pallett says. "The crossover of the two is still kind of new to me. I don't really know how to make records or anything, it's mostly just fooling around."

Fooling around has certainly paid off for Pallett, as his second Final Fantasy album, *He Poos Clouds*, is up for the inaugural Polaris Music Prize.

The Polaris Music Prize is a non-profit organization that annually honors those in Canadian music who display merit and the highest artistic integrity, without regard for professional affiliation or sales history. *He Poos Clouds*, along with nine other acclaimed Canadian albums, have made the shortlist for the \$20 000 prize.

"I'm flattered," Pallett says regarding the nomination. "It's a lot of money, too. Well, it's a lot of money for me. [The prize is] probably not a lot of money for Metric, but for me, it would be a big deal. I could pay off my boyfriend's student loan."

"Me and Rollie [Edmonton rapper and fellow Polaris Nominee Cadence Weapon] are rooting for each other," he adds. "But we're both pretty sure Wolf Parade or Metric are going to win."

To be among such highly acclaimed company is nothing short of impressive, especially when the songs from *He Poos Clouds* are based upon the eight circles of magic present in the game *Dungeons and Dragons*—not exactly your typical song content. Videogame references, too, crop up periodically throughout Final Fantasy's songs and albums; *He Poos Clouds* features a song called "Many Lives -> 49 MP," while on Pallett's Final Fantasy debut, *Has a Good Home*, the song "An Arrow in the Side of Final Fantasy" directly swipes a melody from a Super Mario game.

Not all videogame lovers, though, have accepted Final Fantasy with open arms. As of late, Pallett has experienced some backlash as a result using the moniker Final Fantasy (the name is also the title of an ultra-popular videogame series). The problem stems not from Squaresoft, the maker of the games—"I don't think they'll do anything," Pallett interjects, "because I don't call what I do 'video games'"—but from zealous fans hooked on the series.

"Vindictive Final Fantasy game fans have shut down Final Fantasy band Myspaces," Pallett says. "That's kind of annoying. I'm setting up a new Final Fantasy Myspace now—it's under the title 'Pinal Pantasy.'"

Even if his decision to walk the path of a solo artist is being rewarded with a

growing fan base and increasing college radio play (as well as some bizarre responses from gamers), it's still a little bit strange, on his part, to continue down that road, considering the groves of talent he's been involved with. In addition to the Arcade Fire and the Hidden Cameras, Pallett has been a part of Toronto's defunct Les Mouches, and another Toronto band, Picastro; however, it's from this experience that Pallett can pick out both the pros and cons of collaborative and solo art.

"Being in a band is tough because you have to deal with such things as 'manners' and 'tact,'" Pallett concedes. "Being a solo artist is tough because you're plagued by constant self-doubt."

This response may seem a little frank, but Pallett can also attest to the flip side of that, having worked with the finest in Canada's exploding music scene.

"I'm always learning things from [Arcade Fire songstress] Regine Chassagne," Pallett states. "She's filled with amazing ideas."

Of course, Pallett's involvement with other musical acts sing a special little note in his heart, but, as Final Fantasy picks up speed, the real question is this: will Pallett's top-notch collaborations cease?

"No," Pallett says.
"But I demand that

future collaborators have the same-or-better level of critical acclaim as Final Fantasy. I will not waste my time with these renegade 'musicians' who refuse to function outside of the boundaries of what the blogosphere considers 'good music.'"

A pause.

"I'm just kidding," he laughs. "I'll work with anybody for nothing so long as I have the time to do so."



THE GATEWAY

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DAN PLOUFFE, THE LINK

SENSELESS VIOLENCE Three women are directed away from Dawson College after a gunman opened fire in the building.

Fatal shooting at Montréal college shocks Canadians

Chaos at Dawson College brings city's centre to a halt as police evacuate area

JEREMY DELMAN
CUP Québec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL (CUP)—A shooting in a Montréal college early yesterday afternoon has left one student and the gunman dead, and 19 others injured.

The shooter's identity is being withheld by police, but it's known that he's a 25-year-old resident of the Montréal area. The man reportedly entered Dawson College, an English-language institution in the city centre, and began firing into the school's crowded cafeteria at around 12:45pm.

The City of Montreal Police Service (SPVM) arrived minutes later and exchanged gunfire with the man, who was later found dead with multiple gunshot wounds. It's still unclear if the wounds were caused by police or self-inflicted. The officers then evacuated the school floor by floor, sending thousands of students into the streets.

But three hours after the shooting began, students on upper floors and in the basement were still locked in their classrooms, supposedly because police weren't sure whether more suspects were roaming the halls.

"There was blood everywhere around the cafeteria and gunshot holes through the main doors," said Roxanne Michaud, through tears and gasps, as she ducked under the police cordon. "I just want to go home."

Most of the injured were taken to Montréal General Hospital, where eight

people were listed as being in critical condition, while five others were taken to other medical centres in the city.

Fehr Marouf, a Dawson College student, was leaving for lunch with a friend when he saw a man in a trench coat and black boots approach the school with a large firearm.

"We ran back into Dawson and through the atrium telling people to leave. We got out from the other side," he said.

Though other descriptions from witnesses match Marouf's account, it's still not clear whether the suspect was a current student.

With SWAT teams preparing to enter the building and helicopters hovering overhead, hundreds of police officers manned a five-square-block perimeter of the scene, helping students leave and searching for any suspects who might have escaped in the crowd. After being directed away from the school, students and faculty sought refuge at nearby Concordia University. The institution's Student Union converted a building into a temporary shelter for those evacuated, and offered counselling to the traumatized students and staff.

"This is not something we've ever done before, so we're in uncharted territory," said Concordia SU President Khaleed Juma. "But at the same time, as soon as we heard, we started making the provisions to accommodate any number of students who would be arriving here."

Students from McGill University also had representatives on hand, guiding students from Dawson through the city streets towards the Concordia campus and to DB Clark Theatre, where medical staff was on hand.

Outside of Concordia and along the side streets of downtown, students clutched each other in disbelief.

"It's just so surreal," Dawson student Samantha Tauby said. "This sort of thing isn't supposed to happen here."

"C'était la confusion totale," student Jonathan Mailhot echoed. "The police had their guns, there was blood everywhere, everyone was screaming."

The SPVM closed down the city's Metro system and a nearby shopping centre following reports of three other suspects attempting to escape the school—though it was later confirmed that there had been only one gunman. The transportation system was eventually reopened later in the day.

For many, including Ray Bourgeois, Dawson's Dean of Science, the shooting brought back memories of the 1989 massacre at Montréal's École Polytechnique, where a gunman killed 14 women, although the victims in the Dawson shooting are of both sexes.

"There's going to be a long healing process," Bourgeois said, acknowledging that, for the time being, the college is closed indefinitely.

—With files from Jesse Rosenfeld, Mike Dineen, Misha Warbanski and Lina Harper

Provincial gov't hints at major loan alterations

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

As student debt continues to rise across the country—the average Alberta graduate owing \$20 000—discussions and proposals on how to solve the problem are suggested on a regular basis. However, one proposal in particular may see Alberta leave the Canadian Student Loan Program behind for a new program regulated by the province, explained Denis Herard, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education.

"I'm trying to make major changes to our student loan program, but I'm tied to a bunch of federal regulations," Herard told the *Gateway* in a phone interview on 28 August.

Since Alberta is only responsible for 40 per cent of loans administered—the other 60 per cent provided by the federal government—Herard explained that the province can only give remittance for that portion once students graduate and it comes time for them to pay the loans back.

"There's progress being made, but we're just on the verge of taking our recommendations through the approval process," Herard said in a follow-up interview on Wednesday, explaining that it must go through the Cabinet and caucus. "So, what's in there I can't share with you until at least my colleagues have had an opportunity to see what it is we're recommending."

Other concerns the ministry hopes to address are lowering interest rates and reforming eligibility rules for loan applicants.

"In order for Alberta to have a consistent set of rules, we have to tailor our rules to that of the federal government, otherwise it would be just too confusing for students," he said, adding that the federal regulations are a serious challenge for student loans in the province.

"That sounds to me like a lame excuse for not doing anything," said Dave Taylor, Liberal Critic for Advanced Education. "There are things that we can do right here in Alberta that we should get on about doing and then, after we've cleaned up our house, we can go to Ottawa and say, 'Now boys, let's talk about a change.'"

He went on to say that remittance programs are ineffective and costly for the province, and pointed to a much easier solution to the problem of student debt.

"We lend students the money and

then when they successfully complete the degree, we remit the money, or we forgive some of the loans, and we spend all the money that it costs to administer that program—the salaries, the stamps, the printing of the forms, et cetera, et cetera," Taylor said. "A simpler way than going through that whole remission dog and pony show would simply be to reduce the cost of tuition up front and more adequately fund postsecondary education."

Raj Pannu, NDP Critic for Advanced Education, pointed to creating non-repayable grants to reduce the debt burden to students—a recommendation coming out of the *A Learning Alberta* review this summer, which was championed by student groups across the province.

"One way of doing that would be, of course, to say that students who complete successfully their programs within a certain number of years won't have to pay back their loans," Pannu said.

"A simpler way than going through that whole remission dog and pony show would simply be to reduce the cost of tuition up front and more adequately fund postsecondary education."

DAVE TAYLOR,
LIBERAL ADVANCED
EDUCATION CRITIC

Dave Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External), attended the Alberta Government's Students Finance retreat in July, where approximately 100 people gathered—students and government officials alike—to discuss ways to create a more affordable postsecondary system in Alberta.

"One of the discussions was the potential removal—simply as a discussion item—of the Alberta Student Loan Program from the Canada Student Loan Program," said Cournoyer, who is also the Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). "I think it's a pretty drastic step—I don't think we're at that point yet."

PLEASE SEE **LOANS** ♦ PAGE 4

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What's your Fantasy?

With a Polaris Music Prize nomination and a growing solo career, Owen Pallett is no longer dreaming.

A&E, PAGE 19



Covered in Oil

The Oiler Rookies looked pretty slick dominating the Golden Bears Tuesday in front of 3000 at the Drake.

SPORTS, PAGE 25



GATEWAY A&E:

Critiquing unsophisticated hair styles since 1910.



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The Rock's gathering moss

The Gridiron Gang

Directed by Phil Joanou.
Starring The Rock, Xzibit and Malcolm Moore
Opens 15 September
Empire Theatres

DANIEL KASZOR
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The Gridiron Gang is the second-best movie *The Rock* has starred in. And, to be quite honest, *The Rock* deserves better than that.

This isn't to say that *The Gridiron Gang* is a bad movie. On the contrary, it hits all of the right emotional notes, and does an adequate job of being a suitably passionate sports movie. Sure, it doesn't try anything interesting with the genre, like Oliver Stone's *Any Given Sunday* did, but it does an admirable job of manipulating the football movie formula. To put it on the high school football movie scale: it's better than *Varsity Blues*, about the same as *Remember the Titans*, but maybe not quite as good as *Friday Night Lights*. The twist, this time, is that all the kids are down on their luck because they're in juvie.

Anyway, back to *The Rock's* career. As I said before: *The Rock* deserves better than *The Gridiron Gang*. It's the kind of movie a person agrees to when they're coasting on their celebrity (see Denzel Washington in the aforementioned *Remember the Titans*). They do it as something that doesn't affect their status, but reminds people that they're here, all the while earning a handful of cash. By all accounts, *The*

Rock should be at that point in his career. But, somehow, his journey as a movie professional has gone off track.

He's had some measure of success, though: he's probably the only wrestler turned actor who will go down in people's memories as "that movie star who used to be a wrestler" as opposed to "that wrestler who tried to be a movie star," but that's sort of like being the ostrich who can fly better than the rest of his kin. He still isn't going anywhere.

The Rock deserves better than *The Gridiron Gang*. It's the kind of movie a person agrees to when they're coasting on their celebrity. They do it as something that doesn't affect their status, but reminds people that they're here, all the while earning a handful of cash.

It looked rosy for *The Rock* a while ago. Sure, *The Scorpion King* sucked, but it was a perfect launching point for the rest of his career. After that came *The Rundown*, which was a much better movie than it should have been. *The Rock* had blossomed as a per-

former, it was the only movie that Sean William Scott had been in where he wasn't painfully annoying, Chris Walken was his usual weird self and Rosario Dawson was hot. It should have been a great way for him to move up in the world. But, not many people saw it, and those who did were less impressed than I was. Things just got worse from there.

The Rock followed *The Rundown* with *Walking Tall*, which had a strange made-for-TV feel to it. Then he became attached to *Spyhunter*, a project that has been delayed for years, because, one presumes, it's terrible. All of this was followed up by *Doom*, which was one of the worst movies of 2005.

This isn't to say that the man once known as Dwayne Johnson has made absolutely terrible choices in roles. He had juicy bits in both *Be Cool* and *Southland Tales*, which probably would have earned him more praise if the both of those projects hadn't fallen apart around him.

I don't know. *The Rock* is 34 now. He should have made it already. He was supposed to be the second coming of the '80s action star. He's as charismatic as Arnie and Stallone, has at least as much presence, and is certainly a better actor than either of them. Perhaps the world doesn't want big, dumb action movies anymore. Maybe *The Rock* is a man come 20 years too late.

Anyhow, *The Gridiron Gang* is worth seeing if you like that kind of thing. And maybe *The Rock* will hit it huge next year.

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Deviating from the standard

The Grassroot Deviation don't want people to label them as some funky hick group from Boondocks, Nowhere, just because of their moniker. Instead, they'd prefer it if listeners would stereotype them as a "ballsy" live band

The Grassroot Deviation

With Kent McAlister and his band
Friday, 15 September at 9pm
Sidetrack Café

CARLA KAVINTA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With the recent release of their first full-length eponymous album, this Alberta foursome—also known as The Grassroot Deviation—is more than ready to electrify the Edmonton stage yet again. Although the lengthy disc is evidence of the band's creative collaboration and dedication in the studio, vocalist and guitarist Brian Parker admits the essence of the band lies in performance.

"For about a year we were sort of semi-focused on the disc and for the month we were recording, we were entirely focused on the disc," Parker says. "But for the most part, we're always focused on playing live."

According to Parker, there's a clear discrepancy between recording a track and delivering it to an audience.

"We feel like our music comes across a bit better live," he continues. "I mean, all music does, to some extent, but we feel more comfortable in that setting. On the grand scheme of things, more of our energy is

devoted to that. There's a certain, shall I say, 'ballsy-ness' that [is] really hard to get recorded digitally."

That being said, he adds that after the in-studio experience, they could have done a few things a little differently. "Next time, if we were to go in, we would go in a little more straight at it, try to take a little less time, and try to capture a more raw feel."

Even so, judging by this past summer's energy-infused Western Canada tour, Parker only emphasizes the band's lust for their live acts, as the four University of Alberta students could be spotted playing venues in Banff, Nelson and, as he sarcastically added, other Canadian hot spots.

"We were showing up on, like, a Wednesday or even sometimes a Tuesday night, loading our gear into a bar hoping that some people would come," Parker says. "But, in general, I thought the tour was a success and that we grew as a band. I think we got relatively good feedback. I mean, as good as we could get with that sort of approach."

Guitarist Dan Smith of The Deviation also agrees that touring is an essential part of the entire experience.

"We tend to be sort of on a more improvisational side, or at least we

focus more on the live music side of things," Smith says.

Come Friday's show, though, audiences can expect a unique and spirited sound, filled with a blend of colorful genres including roots, rock and blues. In describing the sound of their new CD, Parker notes, "I'd think we're more at home in the roots or blues thing. But there's definitely a groove happening there."

Smith agrees. "Yeah, we're not like a lot of indie bands, or smaller bands who will say 'We're really eclectic, and we can't really describe it. It's kind of different than anything else.' I mean, we do have a bit of an eclectic feel, but I'd say we generally work on a blues and roots feel, and it branches out from there. At a show, you'll find a lot of different genres that circulate around that."

Evidently, Smith is fully aware of the dangers of being stereotyped in the music industry and is wary of being pigeonholed into a particular genre.

"You do get labelled sometimes. I guess that's not necessarily a bad thing—but it can be at times, because it sort of gives a connotation. It puts an idea in people's minds, whereas we'd rather have people come to the show and decide for themselves."

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Please paste your essay into the body of the email message (attached files will not be accepted).

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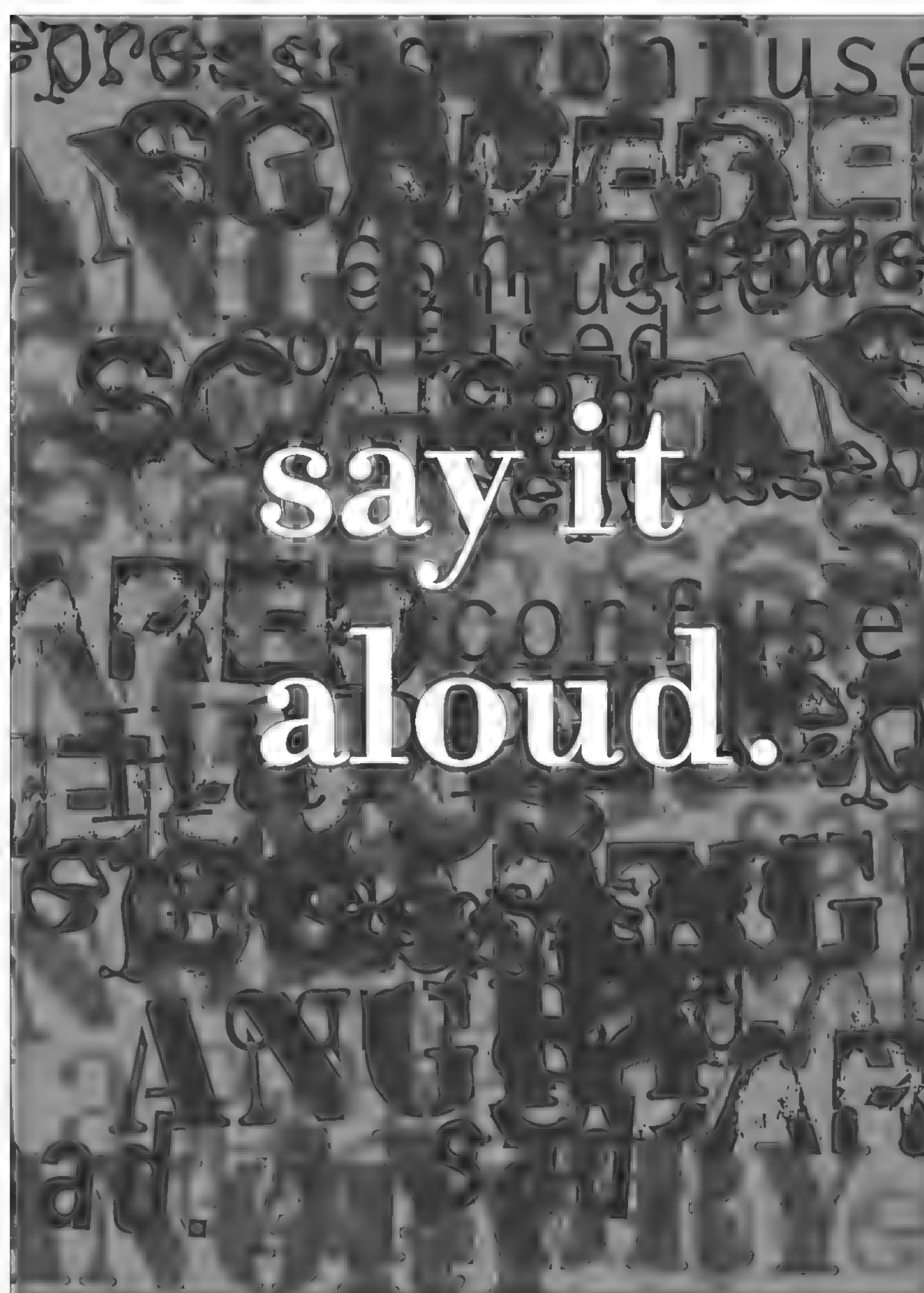
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Wasting away in class

Northern Light Theatre kicks off season with *Miss Margarida's Way*

Miss Margarida's Way

Directed by Trevor Schmidt
 Starring Linda Grass
 15 September to 1 October
 The Third Space

MIKE SMITH
 Arts & Entertainment Writer

"She had this thing with birthdays," Taylor Chadwick of Northern Light Theatre says. "The kids whose birthday it was would get to sit up at the desk and get a little present. I failed my French test in the morning and when it was my time to go up ... she totally forgot by the end of the day, and just gave me a pencil."

According to Chadwick, we've all had teachers that confused, annoyed or frustrated us to no end, but we've also had some that inspired us to take the most absurd paths in life. Chadwick, who plays a student in Northern Light Theatre's season opener, *Miss Margarida's Way*, says that the character of Miss Margarida reminds him of a teacher he had back in the day. And, like Chadwick's ability to relate, Northern Light hopes audiences, too, will find their own connection to the show.

"She is a very loopy woman ... a little uncontrolled," Chadwick says about the eighth-grade teacher, who goes from seducing to threatening her students in a heartbeat. "A teacher is one of those innocent power figures that people often don't recognize. We've tried to make [the play] as personal to our culture

as possible, because it has a lot to say about authority in general."

Throughout the course of Roberto Athayde's dark comedy, *Miss Margarida* covers the various subjects a normal youngster might learn, but often in a frenzied and bizarre manner. Trevor Schmidt, the director of the show (and the theatre's artistic director) and Linda Grass, the title actor, have taken their own direction for the play, editing it slightly to make it feel more local, in an attempt to help speak to the audience.

"A teacher is one of those innocent power figures that people often don't recognize. We've tried to make [the play] as personal to our culture as possible, because it has a lot to say about authority in general."

TAYLOR CHADWICK

Grass, a Sterling Award-nominated actress for her work in last year's *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, has her work cut out for her. Schmidt and Grass both worked together in the Fringe's *Neo-Nancies* and have had little time to prepare.

"It was tough because we all had shows in the Fringe. That's just the life of a theatre artist, constantly doing three or four projects at the same time," Chadwick says. "She saw the script at the first rehearsal. When you are as talented as Linda is, it's easy to just jump in [and] take it by the balls."

"It's a challenge for her, but she's grappling with it quite well."

Although the play is, for the most part, a one-woman show, the cast and crew are hoping the audience plays along, since those watching will be treated like the students in the class. However, the show can still stand on its own without interaction, and they don't intend on forcing a reaction; they'll only try prodding the audience for one.

"We're not really too worried about it if they're not responsive," Chadwick says. "You can't force anyone to do anything that they don't want to."

If the audience does interact with *Miss Margarida* as hoped, though, then Grass has prepared some lines to react with, but improvisation skills will be the main tool used to keep the verbal tennis match going.

"It all depends on the audience," Chadwick says. "[Schmidt] likes to challenge people into thinking about theatre."

So, if you'd like to help further your experience, you can choose to sit at one of several desks on stage as your seat for the play rather than in the traditional seating area, but if you do, just be prepared to become part of the show yourself.



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Underoath

Define The Great Line
Tooth and Nail Records
www.underoath.com

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If you're like the majority of metal fans, anything dubbed "Christian rock" is generally held in dismay. Underoath's third full-length record, *Define the Great Line*, destroys that notion, as the band offers an epic and spiritual metal journey without sounding preachy or holier-than-thou.

Notably heavier than the band's more pop-directed, emo-like 2004 album *They're Only Chasing Safety*, the band clearly showcases its influences here. The breakdown in "Casting Such a Thin Shadow" evokes atmospheric metal band Isis, while both "A Moment Suspended in Time" and "Moving for the Sake of Motion" have moments that seem like a throwback to emo-punk godfathers At The Drive In. Clearly more complex than its ancestor, the band makes use of some beautifully structured soundscapes and intricate polyrhythms.

If screamo really isn't your thing, there's still a high likelihood that you won't like Underoath. However, for those who can look past it, there's a lot here to like and Underoath has proved with *Define the Great Line* that they have something unique to offer.



Underoath: metal's littlest angels

Underoath

With Silverstein, Moneen and He Is Legend
Saturday, 16 September at 7pm
The Venue (formerly Red's)

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Labels stick—especially in the music world, where increasingly clever monikers are being employed to describe the ever-changing sounds of modern music. But for Florida-based metalheads, Underoath, being labelled as a Christian metal act—and the stereotypes that follow—haven't held them back.

"We play heavy music and we all happen to be Christians," said Chris Dudley, the band's keyboardist, speaking over the phone from his home in Florida. "We're not a 'praise and

worship' type band. As far as being called Christians, that's one label we readily put on ourselves. Other than that, we don't really care if we're called Christian death metal or screamo or whatever. You can call us country if you like, as long as you enjoy the music."

The band's latest release, *Define the Great Line*, debuted at number two on the Billboard Hot 200 in June, the highest debut for a "Christian" album since 1997. Produced by Matt Goldman of the Blue Man Group and Adam Dutkiewicz of Killswitch Engage, it's Underoath's most polished and heaviest record yet.

"Adam knows what we're going for as far as the energy level goes, and Matt knows how we work in the studio," Dudley says. "We started writing it a week after [2004's] *They're Only Chasing Safety* came out, and we knew we wanted it to be more intelligent as

far as the musicianship goes."

The group stirred some controversy this summer when they abruptly left the Warped Tour due to reports that NOFX's Fat Mike had mocked them because of their religious beliefs. There were also questions about whether the band would break up due to internal strife, but Dudley put these notions to rest.

"That tour was probably my favorite tour we've ever done," he asserts. "[Fat Mike] kind of gave us a hard time for being Christians, but that didn't influence anything. He didn't have anything to do with it. There were a lot of problems internally. We weren't friends first and a band second anymore and we agreed that if that happened, we would stop and re-evaluate where we needed to be. There was a lot of healing and talks that happened. We're more on the same page now, so I see

us getting out there and being stronger than ever."

Despite their strong religious beliefs, though, the group is not—and will never be—a stranger to getting revenge for tour jokes.

"One time, a band called Darkest Hour covered our van in glue and pornography since they knew we weren't into that stuff," Dudley laughs. "We got them back, though: we got a jug and filled it with mayonnaise, ketchup, pee, Tabasco sauce, jelly and other gross stuff, and let it ferment. Then we took the tires off their trailer during their set and put the trailer on blocks, then chained the tires to the roof. We put the keys for the chains and the lug nuts into the jar along with some duplicates so they really had to work to get the right one."

"It was my idea," Dudley adds with a hint of pride.



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Panurge

Walking in the Fog
Last Gang Records
www.panurge.net

RYAN HEISE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The third album from Panurge can hardly be categorized by its title, *Walking in the Fog*; instead, the Vancouver-based quartet's new work is better described as a stroll in the park on a clear summer afternoon. Often categorized as an experimental band, Panurge falls into the same genre as Of Montreal and Arcade Fire by creating music that is layered, poppy, fun and often a little tongue-in-cheek, but still manages to remain crisp and void of static.

Clearly, Panurge's mantra for this album was "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Most of the tracks on *Walking in the Fog* follow a similar pattern—simple guitars coated

with rows of synthesizers and electric beats that accentuate lead singer Chris Lovell's melancholy but smooth voice. Surprisingly, this combination remains fresh even after a number of spins. However, while some listeners will get a chuckle from the often nonsensical lyrics, others may instantly be put off by songs about writing a letter to a muskrat ("Dear Daughter of the Sea") or living with simians ("Monkey Town").

Though not the most unique album by today's standards, *Walking in the Fog* is a wholly inoffensive and fun album that screams Montreal indie, all the way from the junky-filled streets of Vancouver.



Pink Spiders

Teenage Graffiti
Suretone
www.thepinkspiders.com

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Things are looking up for the Pink Spiders. With the release of their new album, *Teenage Graffiti*, they're finally taking that jump from underground obscurity to mainstream popularity, playing an infectious, jangly style of rock music similar to that of the current radio favourites, the Arctic Monkeys.

For the most part, *Teenage Graffiti* is a lot like much of the Pink Spiders' other work, but nonetheless it's sure to make you dance around the room in the morning and, subsequently, haunt your brain the rest of the day, rendering classroom attention spans non-existent. But not to worry: it's a happy sort of brain haunting! The

Pink Spiders' lyrics are fun and inventive enough that you won't mind them creeping and crawling through you head during your eleven o'clock class.

That's not to say the whole album is good, however. A lot of the songs follow the same lines and can get repetitive after a while. There are just enough tracks that stand out on the disc to keep it from becoming completely monotonous, like the sing-songy "Adalae" or the bouncy, teasing tune "Hollywood Fix." All in all, if you're in the mood for some happy, jump-around-and-dance-like-a-fool rock music, then *Teenage Graffiti* is the way to go.



The 88

Over and Over
EMK/Moontron Records
www.the88.net

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The twelve songs on *Over and Over*—the second album from The 88—have a soothing, repetitive, retro sound, which has apparently made them sell like hotcakes. However, these increased sales haven't happened all on their own: most of The 88's songs can be found on television shows such as *The OC*, and *Grey's Anatomy*, movies like *You Me and Dupree* and *Failure to Launch*, and popular commercials for Target and NFL's "Sunday Ticket" game. Really, everybody knows anything featured on prime time TV can, undoubtedly, contribute to numbers.

Songs on this album possess a harmless pop vibe, with lead singer

Keith Slettedahl either plaintively howling on livelier tracks like "Hide Another Mistake" and "Battle Scar," or suggestively bleating on slower tunes like "You Belong To Me" and "Bowls." The 88 are perfectly fitting for background music, but they're not nearly as interesting without a visual accompaniment. They provide a nice ambient mood without offering anything in the way of a hook or a reason to listen intently.

So if you want your music to remind you of that time Izzie totally hit on heart transplant patient Denny before he up and died, listen to The 88. If you want music engaging all on its own, look somewhere else.

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Madeleine Peyroux

Half The Perfect World
Rouder Records
www.madeleinepeyroux.com

BILLY POON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Half The Perfect World—is it really too much to ask for? For all of the hardships and troubling experiences we endure, you'd think that we deserve to relax, even though we're practically in the mist of chaos and terror, day in and day out.

Listening to the Georgia-born Madeleine Peyroux, though, will give you that bit of escape you deserve. A soul and jazz signer by nature, Peyroux's music is both polite and pretty, sounding very similar to the sophisticated style of Norah Jones. Her music tends serve its purpose best when you're sitting around at home, perhaps lazing on the comfortable Persian rug with the shades drawn,

embers smouldering in the fireplace and a bottle of white wine sitting half empty on the coffee table.

A contrast against her last album, *Careless Love*, Peyroux's *Half The Perfect World* takes its cue from the artists and writers that have surrounded her during her lifetime (the past 22 years). Such influences include Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits, Fred Neils and Joni Mitchell. Unfortunately, though, the album is a relative let down when ranked beside *Careless Love*, which is a masterpiece in its own right, but nonetheless, it's certain that *Perfect World* will still reach from the depths of her heart into yours.



The Dears

Gang of Losers
MapleMusic Recordings
www.thedears.org

RENATO PAGNANI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

seemed to bleed into one another, when the notion of what day of the week it is takes a backseat to nights of (occasional) blurry, alcohol-fuelled adventures? *Gang of Losers*, the third full-length from Montréalers The Dears feels just like that.

Moments where the indie-rock gods smile upon Murray Lightburn and his cohorts are marred by poor production and mixing, nearly sucking the life out of what is otherwise inspired work from the group. Guitars that should crunch end up languishing with muddled energy, and the drums are often lost beneath Lightburn's soaring self-deprecation. The vocals are mastered too low in the mix, and stabs at Wolf Parade synthesizers (like in the beginning

of "Ballad of Humankindness"), which suffer from this hapless self-producing.

Recorded in their home studio, *Gang of Losers* is less an example of lazy producing and more a result of the limitations of do-it-yourself recording—which is a shame, because the songs are there. From the shimmering lead-single "Ticket to Immortality" to the pseudo-title track "You and I Are a Gang of Losers," the black Morrissey's wit is in top form ("We ain't here to steal your women/ At least that wasn't the plan," which is from "Whites Only Party") and his band has balanced accessibility and intricacy. *No Cities Left* this is not, but in the end, it's not such a bad thing.

You know those summer days that

Oiler Rookies roll over Bears

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Though it hasn't even been three full months since the last time a team wearing Edmonton Oilers silks took to the ice, the team's hold on the city hasn't waned. 3009 fans crowded into Clare Drake Arena to watch as the rookie Oilers dominated the Golden Bears in a penalty-filled game, winning 6-3 and putting an end to the Bears' five-year winning streak in the event.

"It's unreal to win, it's been three years [of losing] for me and a whole lot more for the team. Out of the three years, this is by far the best I've seen our guys play," said Edmonton Oilers Rookies goaltender Devan Dubnyk. "It certainly didn't look like we hadn't played together before."

"It's only been two days out on the ice for us and we're already into it, the lines are clicking and guys are working hard. I didn't have to do much in the third period because the guys were working so well."

Like the 19 previous meetings between the teams, both teams played with something to prove—the young pros tried to make an impression on the fans and Oilers management, and the two-time defending CIS champions wanted to break in a new crop of players and show they could play with some of the best prospects in the game.

"They're a very good team and they probably had one of the best teams they've put together, speed-wise and skill-wise, in quite a few years," said Bears head coach Eric Thurston, who had to replace ten of the 18 skaters from last season's championship squad. "They probably had more guys on their team that played last year in this game than we did."

While the crowd seemed evenly split between the two teams, it was the Oilers fans that were rewarded early and often as the Rookies strong play kept the Bears on their heels. Though the Bears veteran combination of Ben



NICK WIEBE

CROSSED UP The Bears had their five game winning streak against the Edmonton Oilers Rookies broken. Much like the Bears broke up this Oiler Rookie rush.

Kilgour, Tim Krymusa and Dylan Stanley managed to show some flashes of brilliance, the Rookies dominance overshadowed and stifled their offensive effort.

The game featured its usual menu of big hits—Rookies defenseman Theo Peckham leveled two Bears in the third alone—and nice goals early on, it was the play of the goaltenders that stole the show. In the Edmonton net, Dubnyk only faced a handful of quality chances on the night he was equal to the task, allowing only a trio of power-play shots to get by him. Bear Aaron Sorochan—who was on the Rookies bench for last year's game—was the only reason Alberta

made it through his two periods of work only trailing 3-2.

"I was fortunate that I kept the guys in it early with a couple of saves there, but us not being used to this new penalty system hurt us, as was evident in the third period," Sorochan said. "I'm satisfied with the way I played, not perfectly happy, but hey, it's September, and March is a long way away."

"I was a little nervous at the start because the last couple years we didn't win. We played okay last year, but not great, and I just wanted to come out and make sure that I shook off the nerves," Dubnyk, the former Kamloops Blazer, said. "I got a couple

of saves in there and felt comfortable for the whole game, which was nice because—for whatever reason—in this game for the past couple years I haven't been able to settle down and get comfortable against [the Bears]."

Though the Rookies, lead by Robbie Schremp and Alexei Mikhnov, took the play to the Bears for long stretches in the game, both teams were constrained by the referee who handed out 66 minutes in penalties. The adjustment to the new standard of officiating is something that the Bears admitted they'd need some time to adjust to, though they feel it will benefit them in Canada West regular season play.

"I thought [the referee] did just a

fine job out there because that's the way it's being called," Sorochan said. "You saw it in the NHL last year and we're going to see it here this year. I think when we get into our season, the new rules are really going to help us with the new recruits we brought in and the existing speed we had."

"In a perfect world, you'd like to have three or four games with the new rules before you face a team like that because there's only one of our guys that had played with those rules before," Thurston added. "The rest of our guys were going from the Canada West and CIS extreme of wrestling or rope-a-dope, so you're going from one extreme to the next."



NICK WIEBE

I TOLD YOU THAT WAS HOOKING The Bears had five guys in the penalty box.



NICK WIEBE

IN YOUR FACE Oiler Rookie Theo Peckham(49) was burned a couple times by Dylan Stanley, but still ended the night +4.

Taking it one Stempfle at a time

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

With only eight returning skaters from last year's championship team, it would be easy to write off the Golden Bears hockey squad for the year. Yet, despite the high turnover, Alberta is still one of the favourites to hoist the University Cup at the end of the season. One big reason for this is blueliner Ryan Stempfle. With defencemen Chris Ovington, Gavin McLeod and Perry Johnson all finishing their fifth year of eligibility last season, Stempfle has much more responsibility as one of the few veteran defencemen on this year's squad. "Certainly I'm going to have a larger role than last year," the fourth-year out of Sherwood Park says. "I really need to solidify things back there, but also bring leadership in the dressing room. There's a group of guys, including myself, who need to take the bull by the horns and lead these rookies we have coming in." With last year's captain—McLeod—and the four alternates all gone from this year's team, leadership will be a big aspect of Stempfle's game this season.

"Stemps is a warrior, and he battles every minute and every chance," head coach Eric Thurston says. "He blocks shots and puts his head in front of things, and he's a tough kid, and he'll be called on for that leadership, not just on the ice, but also in the dressing room."

Stempfle figures to play with a variety of different defence partners. He and fellow veteran Harlan Anderson have been charged with bringing along the young defencemen in the Bears' system. Paired up with rookie Derek Price, Stempfle has already been showing the youngster the ins and outs of CIS hockey.

"I've been paired up with him pretty much right out of camp, and it's been a big help for me to adjust to the systems and the style of play," Price says. "He's always talking, always helping



NICK WIEBE

STEMPFLING UP Stempfle will be required to handle a bigger load this year.

me out and giving me options." While he's not known as an offensive defenceman, having scored only four goals in 64 games for the University of Alberta, Stempfle notched Alberta's first goal against the Edmonton Oilers Rookies Tuesday night, a powerplay marker at 8:28 of the second. Still, Stempfle sees his role this season being primarily defensive.

"I want to be a force on the [penalty kill] and keep a solid plus/minus.

Primarily, I want to play a lot of minutes—I did a ton of conditioning over the summer and I'm ready. I want to be on the ice at the end of the game and really solidify the back end for us," Stempfle says.

"I can't fill the shoes of McLeod, but I'm going to be way better than I was last year. We've worked hard over the summer, and I think that's not going to show only in March, but also in October, at the start of the season."

Amount of racism still in basketball senseless

CHRIS
O'LEARY



Sports
Commentary

There are certain places that you never expect to find certain things. In life, you sometimes come across pairings that befuddle you—groupings that go against every fibre of rationality and common sense that you just assume the rest of the world has. Yet, there they are, rubbed in your face like the girl you crushed on all through high school who inexplicably dated a goon from the Bantam AA hockey team that sat next to you in Social 10 and spit tobacco on the floor. That happened to a friend of mine once.

The pairing I'm talking about, though, is one that's much more serious, far less likely and for some reason, prevalent nonetheless. The unlikely duo: basketball and racism.

This of course, stems from a story out of Ryerson's the *Eyeopener*, where five players quit the women's basketball team, fed up with head coach Sandra Pothier, who allegedly made countless culturally-insensitive remarks to her players.

I might be quoting the old/naïve school in saying this, but in my years of playing and being around the game of basketball, I thought the game was supposed to transcend race. We live in a world that's consumed with racial issues, but to me basketball has always been something where the colour of your skin takes a back seat to your abilities once you get on the court.

I learned early on, however, that there was plenty of space left on the car with this train of thought.

I've heard high school coaches talk about using black players as an intimidation tactic; I've seen this tactic work on opposing teams; I've seen refs in every level of ball get whistle-happy

when a black player checks into the game. Sadly, those aren't the only stories I can reel off for you.

Over the summer, I was watching the championship game of the NBA 3on3 tournament, formerly known as Hoop It Up. The team that won featured former Bears Robbie Valpreda, Cody Darrah and two Calgary Dinos in Ross Bekkering and his older brother, dunking phenom Henry, who has become an Internet legend for a now famous video of his dunking ability that's made its way around the world.

We live in a world that's consumed with racial issues, but to me, basketball has always been something where the colour of your skin takes a backseat to your abilities.

While watching the final, I looked around the court and saw a number of familiar faces: university athletes, people I recognized from pickup games on campus, and a guy I had met last summer, who I had interviewed at the World Masters Games. He was playing against Henry in the final. After Henry handled the comp on the court, this guy came off the court and said to his wife, "What a great white athlete."

So much for athletic ability overshadowing colour. So much for sports bringing people together and teaching us that, at least on this one basic level, we're not that different. It seems, like more often than not, whether it's a coach allegedly waxing stereotypical on shortcomings of the black community, or a random guy making comments about what an outstanding white person Henry Bekkering is, the only thing that's transcending in basketball lately is ignorance.

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CHRIS BEAUCHAMP, THE GAUNTLET

YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERE Linebacker Dan Bass and the Bears "D" has been sharp, but it's a different story on "O."

Golden Bears host UBC in home-opener on new turf

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

The ninth-ranked University of British Columbia Thunderbirds (1-0) will have gone 14 days without a game by the time they square off against the Golden Bears football squad on Saturday, but when they do finally hit the turf again, it will be brand spanking new. Renovations at Foote Field will be complete in time for Saturday's game; though, for awhile it appeared as though the game may have had to be moved to Clarke Park.

Both Alberta and the T-birds enter the game coming off of victories over Calgary. UBC got 97 rushing yards from running back Chris Ciezki and a 62-yard touchdown from receiver Darren Wilson while racking up 384 yards of total offence in the victory. Alberta needed a last second field goal by Scott Stevenson for the victory. Quade Armstrong scored the Bears' only touchdown of the season thus far for Alberta with a one-yard scamper into the endzone.

While having the field finished for Saturday is perfect timing for the Bears, it's far from the only thing that needed work this week to be ready for tenth-ranked Alberta's (1-1) home opener. With a Canada West-worst seven turnovers through two games and a passing game that's only put up 124 yards per game, the offence—and

in particular the quarterbacks—need to perform better.

"The turnovers are definitely something that I think is going to happen," said quarterback Cam Linke who's split playing time with Quade Armstrong thus far. "I don't think there's any excuse for them, and turning the ball over less is something we're definitely working on."

"The turnovers are definitely something that I think is going to happen. I don't think there's any excuse for them."

**CAM LINKE,
GOLDEN BEARS QB**

"I think our passing game will eventually mature, but we'll just have to take what [UBC] gives us this weekend," head coach Jerry Friesen added. "We'll slowly be able to bring our passing game along, as long as we make sure that our running game stays strong."

That running game, powered by standout rookie running back Tendayi Jozzy, has been the bright spot offensively for the Bears this season. With 359 yards through two games, Jozzy tops Canada West and is second in the

CIS in rushing yards—even though he has yet to cross the goal line for his first CIS score.

"I think we're running the ball well and that's a great thing," Linke said. "You get to control the clock, and when our [offensive] line is dominating like that, I don't necessarily think that we need to keep our offence balanced. If one thing's working then we're going to go with it."

Even though Alberta might try to keep running the ball down teams' throats, opponents are getting wise to the fact that the ground game has become the cornerstone of the Bears' attack. Teams are adjusting to Alberta's reliance on rushing the ball and making moves that Friesen believes will open up other areas for Alberta to exploit.

"We expect that teams are going to try and shut down [Jozzy], but we're preparing for it," he said. "As teams see us and see the strength of our team's running game, I suspect they'll put more pressure on it and that will give us an opportunity to throw the ball a bit more."

The newly renovated Foote will be the second new playing surface the Bears christen this season, as their season-opening loss in Saskatoon was played on Saskatchewan's new field. All the action goes at 1pm, and can be heard live on the Team 1260 through the words of Blake Dermott and Bob "0-2" Stauffer.

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Bears face inconsistent Saskatchewan sled dogs

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Staff

While the schedule has been set for weeks and it's certain that the Golden Bears soccer team will head to Saskatchewan this weekend for a set of games, it's anyone's guess which version of the Huskies will be on the pitch.

Saskatchewan opened their season last weekend in bizarre fashion, first getting blown out 4-0 by the University of Calgary on 8 September, then turning their fortunes around two days later to top the University of Lethbridge 3-1. The broadly different outcomes of the two games have the Bears unsure of what to expect from the Huskies this weekend.

"We're just going to expect the team that won 3-1 against the team that we struggled against [this past weekend in a 1-1 draw] in Lethbridge, as the one that we're going to be playing against," said Bears head coach Len Vickery.

For the time being, Vickery has turned his focus inward, as his team makes its first road trip of the season.

"It's not so much about the opposition as it's about us getting out together and that's what we're looking to do," he said. "We struggled in the latter part of the game against Lethbridge, and—although we still did enough to win against Calgary—I felt we had some bad spells against them on the chances created and the ones that we should have put away. That was a game we should have won comfortably."

Despite some offensive stagnancy that irked Vickery, the fifth-year head coach of the program has been more than pleased with the play of keeper Dan Gusberti, who has been filling the cleats of injured starter Devon Fraser, who incurred a foot injury shortly before the start of the soccer season.

"We're fortunate to have Dan, who's stepped in and done very well,"



PETE YEE

MORE BALDNESS Even MVP Mark Korthius is going for the breezy feel up top.

Vickery said of the third-year science student. "He's only let in the one goal in the third minute of overtime."

The Bears are uncertain on the extent of Fraser's foot injury. Vickery expects him to be out anywhere from four to six weeks. One teammate's misfortune has been another's opportunity, though, for Gusberti, who said that he hasn't felt any pressure from the increased minutes he's now seeing.

"I [found out about the injury] about a week before the season started, so I was prepared to go for both of the games," he said. "It was nice to get a win against Calgary, obviously, and it was a tough break against Lethbridge,

with their goal in the 93rd minute, but still, only one goal conceded over the weekend—I felt pretty good about that."

As for the coming weekend and the possibility of facing a hungry Huskies squad or one that could lie down and play dead, Gusberti echoed his coach's sentiments, placing the responsibility on himself.

"You don't know what to expect. You've got to be ready and prepare the same way you would for any other game."

The Bears will face the Huskies in Saskatoon on Saturday and Sunday at 2pm.

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THE GATEWAY

VERONICA DOLEMAN
Sports Writer

When the Pandas volleyball team clashes with the Canadian Masters this evening in Whitecourt, it will be a meeting of old and new as the Pandas will get their first look at some new recruits while playing against some former Alberta volleyballers.

"This year's Masters Team has a very steep roster," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "The bios themselves could fill up an entire program, and a lot of them are old alumni from our team who have played extensively on the national team. It's the first time in uniform for our athletes; the bottom line is: [we] just hope to compete."

Not only will it be the Pandas' first time in uniform this season, but many new Pandas will also have their first chance to don the Green and Gold. Tiffany Proudfoot is a first-year out of Calgary who spent the summer with the junior National Team, while Samantha Wojtkiw and Kaylan Berg both transferred from Grant MacEwan, where Wojtkiw was the CCAA athlete of the year and Berg was second in the conference in kills per game.

The burden of leadership will fall on an emerging group of younger Pandas stepping into larger roles this season.

"For them, it's a chance to strap them on and have some competition. From my perspective, it's a chance to see some new athletes in a different way."

LAURIE EISLER

"Over my past years of experience as a Panda I have learned a lot from all of the other players," third-year middle Wendy Linnell said. Linnell will be one of those counted on to fill the leadership void left with the graduation of Tawana Wardlaw, Janna Konihowski and Kristin Van Eck. "I hope to carry on the determination and carry on the ritual of what the Pandas [represent]."

With their opening game against

such tough competition, Alberta will be using the contest as a gauge to see where the team is at, and what needs to be worked on.

"It's always good to play against [the Masters], because a lot of the girls are post-Pandas players. We get to play against old teammates, and you learn a lot from them because they have a lot of experience. I'm definitely looking forward to it," Linnell said.

"It will be the first time our team competes together, so it will be really good feeling each other out. We're all fairly young and it should be good just to test out our strengths and see what our weaknesses are."

"Its super early, so—for athletes in particular—they're always anxious to put a uniform on and play, they probably get tired of practicing after the first week," Eisler added. "For them, it's a chance to strap them on and have some competition. From my perspective, it's a chance to see some new athletes in a different way; with a jersey on and under the pressures of real game competition."

The Pandas will challenge the Canadian Masters tonight at 7pm in Whitecourt and Friday night at 7pm in the Main Gym.



GETTING THEIR KICKS IN Striker Claire Thomas is going to have to have to score when she gets opportunities like this.

Pandas battle injuries, Huskies

An all-rookie centre midfield was ineffective for the Pandas in their two wins last weekend, but a veteran returning from a rib injury should help them out

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

After squandering numerous scoring chances in a weekend sweep of Calgary and Lethbridge, the Pandas soccer team heads to the University of Saskatchewan this weekend hoping to capitalize on their opportunities.

"We talked about anticipating ahead of time that you're going to get the ball and finish. We're going to work on finishing until it becomes second nature to put the ball in the net," head coach Liz Jepsen said of her team, who scored only one goal on 22 shots against the Pronghorns last Friday. "If by the end of this weekend they aren't [scoring goals], there'll be a different approach. Because our strikers are all so dominant, we just have to get them more prepared to stay focussed and give them the reps and the technique."

"I used to train with their keeper," second-year midfielder Veronique Mayer added of Husky goalie Codi Corrigan. "She's strong, but she's beatable. She has a lot of weaknesses

and we will pound on her. If we bring our momentum into the weekend and just finish our chances, we'll be laughing."

The Pandas were able to dominate the play this weekend despite missing some key veterans—including Mayer—in the midfield, a trend they will need to correct before heading to Saskatoon to face the Huskies.

"We have to make sure our central mids are better," Jepsen said. "We have a lot of injuries in the midfield, and we more or less skipped over our centre mids in our attack. We need to improve our attack in there, and get them involved in the game, because it's going to matter down the stretch."

Aiding the improvement in the midfield will be the return of Mayer, the keeper on last year's team who will be playing her first game outside the crease for Alberta. Mayer has been injured for the last three weeks after dislocating two ribs and suffering from associated muscle and cartilage damage. While she admitted it will take her a while to fully recover from

the injuries, she maintained that she was okay to play and impatient to get back on the pitch.

"I'm anxious and I'm nervous, but it's a good feeling. It's a completely different level from what I'm used to," she said. "I'm excited; I've played against a lot of these girls in club, but I've never played with them."

"If we keep moving and keep changing the [way] that we attack—keeping them on their toes is a big thing, and winning the mid—it's almost impossible to stop us, especially with the three girls we have in the mid."

The Huskies will counter with U-20 national team member Kaylyn Kyle, but Jepsen wasn't too concerned over what the Huskies would throw out on the field.

"More or less, my philosophy is that we need to play our game and let them react. As long as we make our attack a little more diversified and stay clam—by the end of the Calgary game people were a little helter-skelter—we'll be okay," she said.

Staph infection stonewalls Blue Jays

Toronto isn't going to make the playoffs, and it's because of some leg bacteria



PAUL OWEN

Sports
Commentary

\$20 million can buy a lot of things, but what it can't buy is a place in the MLB post-season. It's a lesson the Toronto Blue Jays have learned the hard way this season. After increasing their payroll by about \$20 million this season, the Jays were in the hunt against the mighty Yankees and Red Sox until the end of July, but now, sitting twelve games back of the division lead, the Jays are clearly out of the playoff race. This unfortunate downturn for the only major-league affiliated baseball team left in Canada can be traced back to one freak accident: the injury to budding superstar Álex Ríos.

On 27 June, in the midst of a 6-0 thrashing of the Washington Nationals—the Jays' fifth win in seven games—Ríos fouled a ball off his leg. This happens to someone at least once

a game, yet, for some reason, Ríos' leg decided a heated playoff race would be the perfect time to go ahead and get all bacteria-ed and infected. Ríos missed the next month of the season with a staph infection and the Blue Jays had their clubhouse disinfected (though it didn't work, as pitcher Ty Taubenheim came down with a similar inflection later in the season).

When he went on the disabled list, Ríos was hitting .330 with a .968 on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS) and was among the league leaders in batting average, RBIs and extra-base hits. He was garnering MVP mentions and setting the table for the best offence in baseball. Ríos missed 23 games and, while the Jays managed to go 13-10 during that stretch—largely due to the career years had by his two replacements Frank Catalanatto and Reed Johnson—the team couldn't manage to gain any ground on the division leader: Boston.

By the time Shea Hillenbrand stirred up the trouble in the Jays locker room and wound up getting traded, the damage was already done. The Jays pitching was uncertain all year, and

they needed to have a fully healthy, fully effective lineup in place. Ríos did come back, but the guy had spent two weeks in hospital and dropped 15-20 pounds. Of course he didn't have the same power and stroke that he had before his hospital stay.

Ríos' OPS has dropped .124 since he came off the disabled list on 28 June, and he has hit just a paltry .211 with only one home run. As Johnson and Catalanatto came back to earth, the Jays were left with only three fear-some hitters in their lineup: Vernon Wells, Troy Glaus and Lyle Overbay. Without Ríos to worry about, teams are now able to pitch around the Jays. The team once had seven regulars batting over .300 and now only has four. Before his injury the Jays had 27 games with more than six runs scored. Since it they've only managed 14.

Some blame Hillenbrand; some blame Josh "worst ERA in history" Towers; some may even blame Ted Lilly, but, for all the Blue Jays' troubles this year, Álex Ríos' freak staph infection wound up affecting the entire team and turning a promising season into a let down.

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CaPS
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contributors

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PCs debate rebate

Faith in past prosperity planning varies greatly among the province's leadership-race participants

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

The race for Premier Ralph Klein's replacement is already in full swing, as candidates met on Tuesday to discuss the future of Alberta and the strategies to deal with excess dollars. But despite the booming economy and rising surplus, Albertans shouldn't expect to receive another rebate cheque in the mail once a new premier takes over.

Klein is expected to submit his letter of resignation this Saturday, but nine candidates who are already competing for leadership of the Conservative Party debated in the first moderated forum at the Arden Theatre in St. Albert. When asked about the \$400 rebate cheques that every Albertan received last January, most candidates made clear statements on where surplus dollars shouldn't go.

"You have to recognize that you have an infrastructure deficit that needs to be repaired, and that that's a much better place to put the money," said Lyle Oberg, former minister of transportation and infrastructure, to whom the question was randomly addressed.

Oberg pointed to many schools in

the province in need of renovation, and highway projects that remain incomplete or unaddressed. Ed Stelmach, MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, echoed Oberg, pointing to 200kms of highway that need repaving in the province.

Alana DeLong was the least critical of the rebate cheques and said that her Calgary Bow constituents needed the money and used it well.

"The reason that I was very pleased to see it at the time was that it really did raise awareness that it is their money. That money belongs to the people of Alberta," she said, adding that there were pressing responsibilities, like addressing health care costs, housing issues, and building schools and hospitals, that need to be addressed with surplus dollars before rebates.

Dave Hancock, former minister of advanced education, agreed that doling out money to directly to citizens isn't as valuable as investing it in long-term programs to aid those struggling to make ends meet. However, his view differed from DeLong's.

"It's not our money; it belongs to future generations of Albertans as well," he said.



MATT FREHNER

PICK ME, PICK ME MLA Edmonton-Whitemud Dave Hancock going for a win.

While most candidates were quick to criticize Alberta's lack of a plan to deal with the oil and gas boom, DeLong was more positive.

"I think there's a misconception that we do not have a plan and that we have not been planning," DeLong said.

However, Ted Morton, MLA for Foothills-Rocky View, who publicly criticized the Klein's rebate cheques when they were announced last year, adamantly disagreed.

"When those cheques were mailed, it became clear that we didn't have a plan. When the captain of the ship says there's no plan, I don't care what's in his closet. If he says there's no plan, there's no plan," Morton said.

But Hancock argued that there were plans—plans that haven't been executed yet.

"We do have a plan: we've actually legislated to contribute money to endowment funds, but we haven't put the money into endowment funds," Hancock said.

Mark Norris, MLA in Edmonton-McClung, suggested lower taxes as an alternative to rebate cheques.

The other candidates, Victor Doerksen, MLA for Red Deer-South, Jim Dinning, who was an elected member of government from 1986–97, and Gary McPherson, who doesn't have a seat in the Legislature, didn't get a word in on the matter.

STREETERS

A shooting at Dawson College in Montréal has stunned students nation-wide.

What do you think can be done to prevent future tragedies like this?



Amber Bergeron
Immunology &
Infection IV

Jesse
Christiansen
Medicine I

Leah Remington
Medicine I

Matthew Gaudet
Computer
Science I

Paying better attention to people—people get left behind really easily—because there are some warning signs, so paying attention to those warning signs in lower grades. Locking down campuses and locking down buildings doesn't help, it just creates fear.

It's one of those things that just kind of happens—unless they have metal detectors in front of all the schools, I don't know that there's much you can do.

I think there needs to be good support systems in place so that if someone is having a mental crisis or taking a while adjusting to school they have places to go.

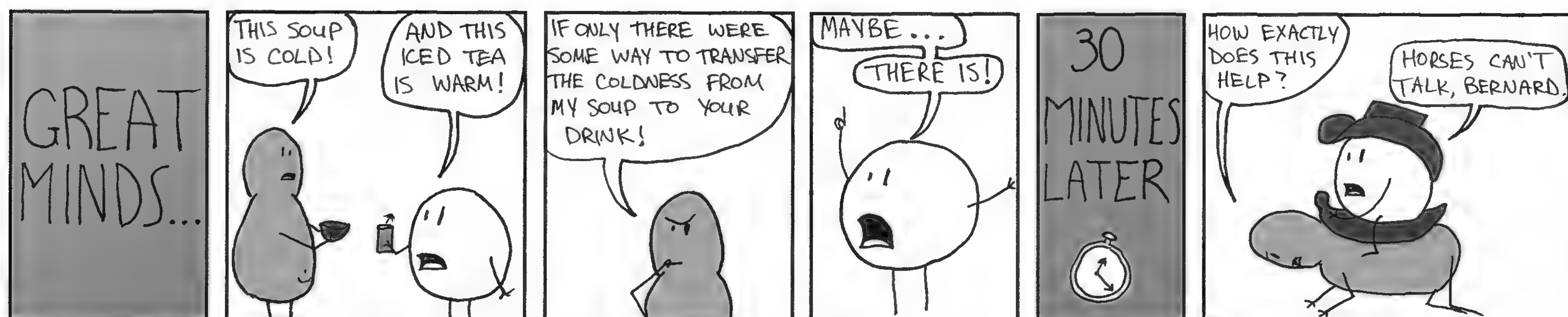
Education. Just keep teaching multi-cultural values and tolerance. Don't let radical ideas get out of control because when they get out of control then people will go nuts.

Compiled and photographed by Natalie Climenhaga and Mike Otto

stop in for a while

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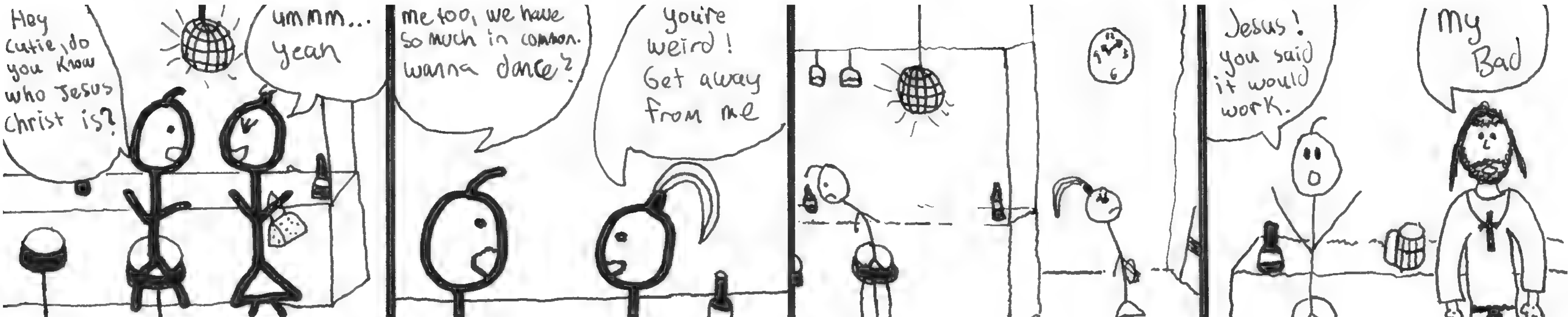
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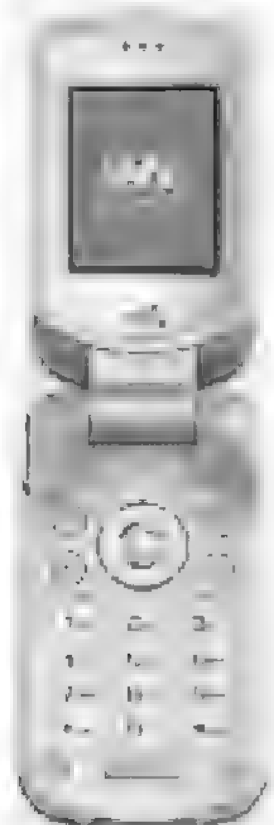
Local A&E Editor sought in murder charges of puppies, freedom

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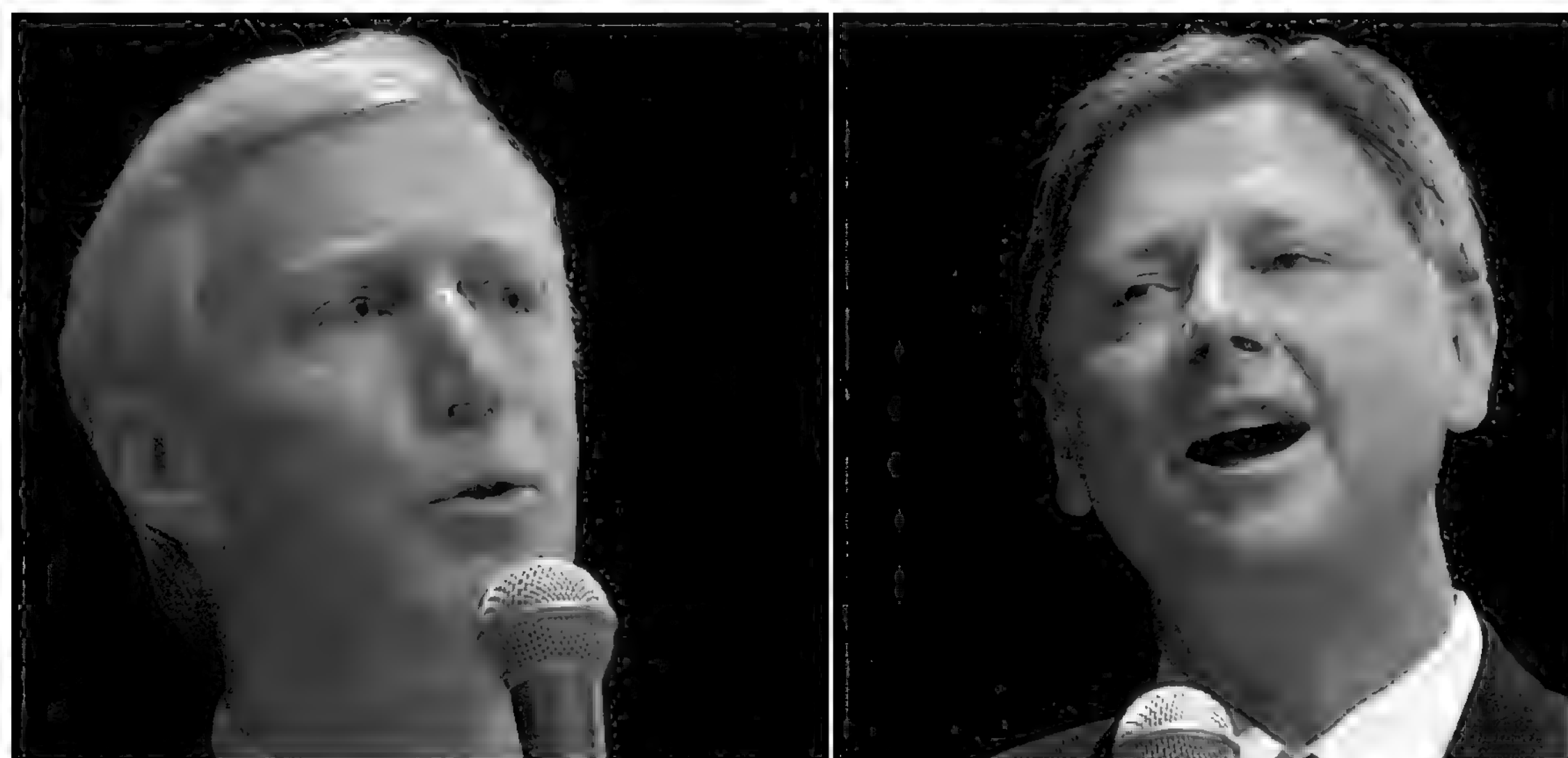
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MATT FREHNER

NOT SINGING A DUET Ted Morton (left) and Lyle Oberg (right) trying to hit the right notes on advanced education.

Better access to education key to Alberta's future, candidates argue

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

In February 2005, Premier Ralph Klein promised Albertans he would establish the most affordable tuition policy in the country, provoking a review of postsecondary education whose recommendations have yet to be implemented. And with Klein set to submit his letter of resignation on Saturday, his potential replacements aren't waiting to put their education platforms on the table.

An early kick off to campaigning took place in St Albert on Tuesday, as all nine candidates gathered at the Arden Theatre to debate before a packed house of Conservative Party members.

"We're turning away Alberta kids by the thousands, literally the thousands," said Mark Norris, MLA for Edmonton-McClung, to whom the question about education was randomly addressed by the moderator of the event. "We have to get away from the old mantra that it's cost pressures; it's not cost pressures, it's an investment in our future, and it should be treated that way."

Norris was particularly concerned with creating spaces in technical institutes to create a steady flow of skilled workers for our booming economy, which demands more labourers.

Alternately, Victor Doerksen, MLA for Red Deer-South, suggested allowing students to leave high school at a younger age to attend trades charter schools.

Ed Stelmach, MLA for Vegreville-Fort Saskatchewan, pointed to the lack of Métis and First Nations people in the postsecondary system and encouraged greater emphasis on integrated learning programs.

These statements were echoed by Dave Hancock, former minister of advanced education, who went on to explain that the 40 per cent of Albertans don't have appropriate levels of literacy—something that needs to be changed.

"That's a huge drain, not only our economy, but on their ability to be full citizens. So we need to look at education right across the scope, to make sure it's accessible to all Albertans," he said.

"We have to get away from the old mantra that it's cost pressures; it's not cost pressures, it's an investment in our future, and it should be treated that way."

**MARK NORRIS,
MLA EDMONTON-MCCLUNG**

Alana DeLong, MLA for Calgary Bow, discussed Campus Alberta's distant education program and pointed to the Alberta SuperNet, which makes the Internet more accessible to rural communities, as a method to increase resources across the province.

"We need to put those two together to provide the opportunities for students across the province to access postsecondary education from their home communities," she said.

Jim Dinning, who was an elected

member of government from 1986–97, advocated student loan reforms that could see Alberta drop out of the Canadian Student Loan Program, something Minister of Advanced Education Denis Herard has promoted.

Despite the leadership campaign and Klein's pending departure, Herard told the *Gateway* in a phone interview on 13 September that business will go on as usual.

"Nothing changes until such time that the new premier hopes to appoint a new minister of Advanced Education," Herard said. "There's nothing, as far as I'm concerned, no hiatus. There's no stopping of trying to move forward and progress with these changes."

Immigration was another major topic of debate, and Ted Morton, MLA for Foothills-Rocky View, said that Alberta should play a greater role in this area, much like Québec.

"And if we do that, we can prioritize skilled workers," Morton said. "I support that as another way of meeting our workforce demands."

Lyle Oberg, former minister of learning in Alberta, was similarly concerned about immigration.

"We have to ensure that Canadians get our jobs—jobs that are needed—but still there are going to be jobs left over," Oberg said. "We have to set up an immigration system that brings people in on a temporary basis—that brings people in on work visas—and quite simply, if the job goes, those people must go back to their countries."

The ninth candidate at the forum was Gary McPherson, who doesn't have a seat in the Legislature.




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COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26 September.

Council opened with a speech from Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woynorowski, reminding councillors that, because of resignations, a number of seats remained open on Council. All faculties but Science, Law and Phys Ed have empty seats that need to be filled in an upcoming by-election.

FOOD SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP

Before regular business was tackled, a motion was brought forward to bring a proposal from the late additions page. Brought forward by Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf, who was absent for the first part of the meeting, the proposal would establish a Food Service Advisory Group, which would have access to the contract between the University of Alberta and Aramark, and would be tasked with representing student interests in regards to meal plans on campus.

A few concerns over wording were brought forward, and a few amendments suggested, before VP (Academic) Henry pointed out that changes would force the idea back for approval from groups such as the GSA, which had given the green light to the original proposal. The amendments were dropped, and a motion was brought forth to send the draft back to the Executive Council to work on the wording. The motion was quickly defeated.

In the end, it was decided to table the

motion, postponing it until the arrival of Yusuf later in the meeting.

NEXT UP, QUESTION PERIOD

During Question Period, a couple of questions were asked of VP (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham. One councillor asked why businesses such as Hudson's were allowed to advertise in the handbooks that are handed out to students during WOW, arguing that these businesses were direct competitors to SU-run businesses like RATT and the Powerplant. Cunningham explained that Hudson's had paid a significant price for the ad, and that the money was considered a better deal, as Cunningham did not feel that the businesses were serious competition for on-campus bars.

The next question asked Cunningham of his plans following a letter by former councillor Stephen Kirkham. The letter regarded the Powerplant's sale of tobacco products after the a ban prohibiting such. Kirkham requested that the gross revenues from the sales be donated to the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Cunningham said that, although he didn't condone the action by the Powerplant, he felt the mistake was in good faith, and that the business was simply attempting to get rid of stock purchased before the ban, and shouldn't be penalized as such. He did suggest, however, that the profits from the sale, a total of \$64, be donated to AADAC.

THE SECOND TIME AROUND

Council then moved on to a number of political policies that needed to be read in a second time. The content of the policies varied greatly, dealing with the cancellation of classes during election forums, student accessibility to co-op and internship programs, add/drop deadlines for classes, and the tracking and use of mandatory non-instructional fees. All of the policies were approved unanimously.

ONTO THE MEAT OF THE MEETING

Council then moved on to the main bills of the evening, starting with a motion to pass the Audit Committee Mandate, which would give the committee the responsibility over the disbursement of a number of Dedicated Fee Units, specifically those supplied to CS.R, APIRG, Student Legal Services and the Gateway. The motion was passed unanimously.

The second bill of the evening also passed without a dissenting vote. It added a few clarifications and an extra rules governing over elections, such as clarifications to the responsibilities of the CRO and a law prohibiting Council candidates from endorsing others running in the election.

The last bill of the evening drew a lengthy debate, however. The action in question would have allowed councillors to anonymously opt-out of their pay, the money instead being set aside for scholarships available to students. The supporters of the bill felt that the bill would be the best way for councillors who did not wish to accept their compensation. Critics, however, felt that the plan could create an unfair, two-level Council: those that accepted payment, and those that didn't. Others noted that bylaws were not the place to make changes to the pay system, but rather suggested changes to the budget.

Eventually, a motion was put forward to Council Advisory Committee. More debate ensued, and the motion was passed. The scholarship bill was sent for further discussion in CAC.

With everything on the order paper attended to, the original motion for the creation of a Food Service Advisory Group to oversee meal plans on campus was returned to the table. Debate on the topic was restricted to the motion to send back to the Executive, but was defeated. In the end, the advisory group was created, and the meeting was immediately adjourned afterwards.

PCs suggest changes to Albertan student loans on the horizon

LOANS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Charlotte Kingston, VP (Academic) at the University of Lethbridge Students' Union and CAUS Vice-Chair was also involved in the student loans discussion at the retreat.

"It provides a level of stability that's important to students, and we wouldn't advocate for getting out of the Canadian Student Loans Program unless it had some very substantial benefits along with it," Kingston said.

"It's not just Alberta that's having problems with this; other provinces are asking for the same things we are. It looks like we kind of started something here."

**DENIS HERARD,
ADVANCED EDUCATION MINISTER**

Cournoyer said that representatives from the Ministry of Advanced Education admitted "that they weren't how the removal would even take place," and that he thought the province could make the system better for students within the Alberta system

before proceeding on this idea.

However, the idea has moved beyond the ministry, becoming a topic of discussion at the Progressive Conservative leadership forum last Tuesday. When asked about his plans for postsecondary education, Jim Dinning, one of nine candidates debating at the Arden Theatre in St Albert, advocated student loan reform.

"We should be taking back the Canada portion of the loan system so that we've got the flexibility here in Alberta to do remissions in way that Alberta's been doing only on it's first 40 per cent," Dinning said.

Still, Taylor and Pannu were both unaware that leaving the Canadian Student Loan Program was a serious consideration.

"I didn't hear anything that was strongly urging the province or the minister to look at dropping out of the current program," Taylor said.

However, Herard is confident that the province will enter into negotiations with the federal government soon.

"It sounds to me like the federal government is prepared to sit down and listen to us on that, so we're working on that," Herard said. "It's not just Alberta that's having problems with this; other provinces are asking for the same things we are. It looks like we kind of started something here by asking to go that way."

—With files from Natalie Climenhaga

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Tight budget pulls plug on Peer Health

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

After 18 continuous years on campus, the Peer Health educators program has been put on hiatus by University Health Services (UHS) due to budgetary constraints.

The program, which has been nationally recognized and a recipient of the Capital Health Innovation Award, formally consisted of approximately 18 trained student employees and a couple of assistants per semester. The employees managed displays and gave presentations across campus, on topics ranging from safe sex and contraception to recognizing the signs of alcohol poisoning.

Peer Health was discontinued for the 2006/07 year after the Students' Union rejected a proposal from UHS last February to place a question on the spring election ballot. The question would have asked students to vote on an increase in the Health Services fee by \$6, or 24 per cent, per term for the following year and further \$2 increases each of the following two years after that.

Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf said he's disappointed Peer Health won't be around this year, but explained the decision to not approve running the increase by students stemmed from the SU's reluctance to have student fees increase without

substantial financial information on how the fee would be used.

"They came to [the Graduate Students' Association] and Students' Council last year for a fee increase. GSA approved, but Students' Council didn't approve the increase," Yusuf said. "The main reason being that [the SU] didn't understand where that fee was going."

Because the SU doesn't have representation on the University's Board of Governors' Audit Committee, they're unable to track funds collected from students but administered by the University; however, a new committee has been put together to alleviate the problem and provide clarity for the SU on how a potential fee increase would be used.

"If we had a seat on the Audit Committee, a lot of these issues would be really clear for us," Yusuf said. He explained that the SU has put forward a health service advisory group made up of representatives from the SU's executive committee, SU councillors, GSA members, the Health Centre director and administrative director, as well as a member from the Dean of Students Office.

Health education coordinator Judy Hancock has spent the last 14 years supervising the Peer Health program and will continue to implement and supervise health promotion programs for students on campus. Although she still has help from one

remaining assistant, she's worried it won't be enough.

"We still have the TVs in the waiting rooms at the Health Centre—which I provide programming for—we still have posters on our windows, but we're not able to get out to the students the way the peer educators did," Hancock said.

According to Hancock, presentations put on by Peer Health educators help students fill important health related knowledge gaps they may not have been aware existed.

"Most people think they know everything they need to know about sex by the time they're 18," Hancock said.

Laura Wood, who worked as a Peer Health staff member last year, is disappointed the program had to be put on hold. She explained the group had little time last spring to get a presentation together prior to Student Council's vote.

"We were notified a week before the SU was planning to vote on the fee increase for the Health Centre, and so we only had a week to prepare what we were going to say to try and stop it," Wood explained.

And now that Peer Health isn't on campus, Wood further outlined the risk that students may no longer have a reliable source of information.

"There's also the possibility that misinformation can come on campus,"



JENNY FROGNER

THOSE WERE THE DAYS Ex-Peer Health educator, Laura Wood, says that important information will be missed by students with the program gone.

Wood explained. "Sometimes groups come that don't give out health information that's accurate or that has any medical backing."

UHS has indicated the program won't be reinstated until increased funding is received, but UHS hasn't declared it permanently cut.

"We do hope to have the program

back next fall—that's not for sure yet but we're optimistic," Hancock said. "I don't know how to reach 30 000 students without my peer educators. I'll use the TVs, I'll use the website, I'll speak to classes when I'm invited, but it's not the same to have a 50-year-old woman come in and talk as it is to have students."

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Students warned to be wary of Wikipedia

The online encyclopedia is no substitute for good old-fashioned research, but simply a general starting point: website spokesman

WILL KEATS-OSBORN
The Ubyssy

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Although Wikipedia continues to be a popular online resource for students, some doubt its credibility and usefulness as an academic resource.

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia that uses an unconventional process for gathering information: instead of seeking out experts to write and fact-check articles, Wikipedia allows any visitor to the website to write entries and make changes to existing ones.

The site received a great deal of publicity last winter when a study published in the journal *Nature* found that the accuracy of Wikipedia was comparable to that of the Encyclopedia Britannica. According to the study, out of 42 entries, it was found that the average Wikipedia article contained four inaccuracies, while the average Britannica article had three.

However, Wayne Saewyc, a spokesman for Wikipedia, said the results of *Nature's* study may have been skewed in their favour. He said that *Nature* had only selected Wikipedia's science articles for the study, which tend to be more in-depth and accurate than those of the arts, politics or other topics.

"We got lucky," Saewyc admitted.

While conventional encyclopedias spend a lot of time fact-checking of all their articles, the accuracy of a Wikipedia article often depends on the popularity of the topic, which influences the number of people viewing the article and the number

of potential editors.

In addition, political articles are more likely to be tampered with. Though statistically very rare, a number of articles regarding American senators and congressmen were tampered with by both Republican and Democrat parties, in attempts to introduce particular biases or emphasis into the article.

"Don't try to cite any encyclopedia if you want to get a good grade. Any encyclopedia is not appropriate for good research, and it just tells your teacher that you didn't put the effort in."

**WAYNE SAEWYC,
WIKIPEDIA SPOKESMAN**

"In general, our prose is not as good, and our factuality is not as good," Saewyc said, comparing Wikipedia to conventional encyclopedias.

Saewyc explained that the main advantage Wikipedia has over conventional encyclopedias is the speed in which errors can be corrected.

"It's usually fixed within minutes of coming up in a press release," Saewyc said.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

MISINFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY Whoever said that the world's elephant population had tripled was clearly lying.

Saewyc emphasized that Wikipedia should only be the first step in doing research for a paper.

"Wikipedia isn't authoritative, but it's a good place to start," he said. "Don't try to cite any encyclopedia if you want to get a good grade. Any encyclopedia is not appropriate for good research, and it just tells your teacher that you didn't put the effort in."

Like Saewyc, many professors stress caution when using Wikipedia as an academic resource. Richard Rosenberg, professor emeritus in the University of

British Columbia's Computer Science department, said that the biggest reason to read Wikipedia critically is that it's impossible to tell what the authors' backgrounds are, or what bias they are presenting in their article, given that the authors of Wikipedia's entries can remain entirely anonymous.

"I think it's a valuable resource," Rosenberg said. "But I think students should be cautious. They should use it in a careful way as an introduction to a topic, and it should lead to other

resources that are more reliable."

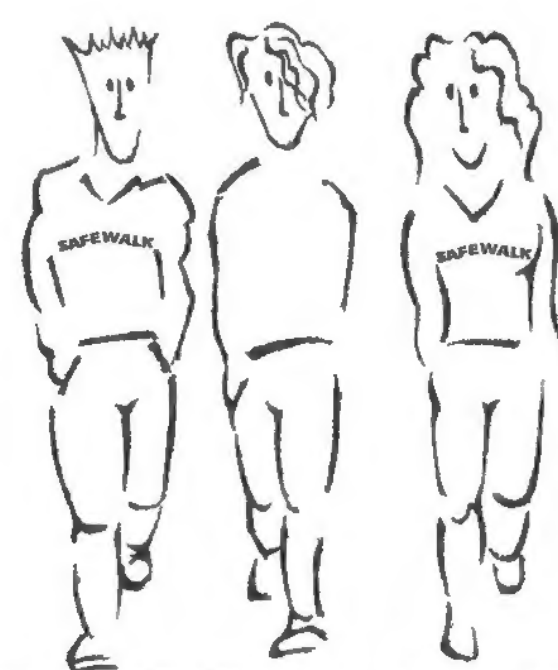
Many students are also wary of Wikipedia's credibility.

"I trust it enough to use it for trivial things, but I don't trust it enough to use it as a legitimate source," said Stephanie Ellis, a fourth-year biology student.

Wikipedia was created in 2001 and now contains almost four million articles in 100 languages and, according to the online ranking facility Alexa, it's the 16th most visited website on the Internet.

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Memories of an Evacuation

An eyewitness account by Carl Conradi

“You are good when you are one with yourself. Yet when you are not one with yourself you are not evil. For a divided house is not a den of thieves; it is only a divided house.”

—Khalil Gibran

Delicate plumes of smoke were rising from the southern suburbs, threading their way through the sky like the sweet tobacco of a *nargileh*. I remember devising this simile on a bus, staring out at the incongruous burning skyline of a beautiful city, trying to make real what I was witnessing with my own two eyes. The naiveté of my comparison filled my heart with grief; is it impossible for me to comprehend the magnitude of such sorrow without making recourse to the romantic?

The downtown streets were deserted, save a soldier on every corner. I had seen this sort of military presence while celebrating the World Cup only a few days earlier, when tens of thousands of revellers poured through the streets with flags and warm cheers. People shot fireworks through the roofs of their cars, the explosions echoing off of skyscrapers, turning each Roman candle in to a mighty cannon. The day I returned to Beirut, in the middle of this summer's war, everything felt sad and alone.

The city was flocking to the Charles Helou bus station. Hundreds of women and children sat on the curbs with their worldly belongings scattered at their feet, their husbands and fathers jostling for tickets to freedom. At times, these men would get in to fist fights, their minds unable to tolerate the pain of not knowing for even one more moment. Every soul was moving, and every one was suffused with fear.

I escaped to the mountain town of Bcharré a few hours later, sitting next to a Lebanese student my age. I asked him about the war. Like many of his countrymen, he was exasperated. He told me very simply that all he wanted was to finish school, start a business and love his girlfriend until the day he dies. He shook his head at the name Hezbollah, expressing resentment typical of the Christian Maronite region from which he came. But he also asked: what else could be done? It's a form of resignation found in the young and old of this region. Indeed, when news of the first Israeli bombardments reached Bcharré—a spectacular village best known as the birthplace of poet Khalil Gibran—many old men simply sat back in their chairs and continued playing backgammon.

Only a few days earlier I had found myself lost in those same southern suburbs, gazing up at massive posters bearing the image Hassan Nasrallah. Who was this bearded man with the enchanting smile? And what should I

make of these pictures next to him, of men garlanded in rainbows, with butterflies perched in their hair? I didn't know it at the time, but that area was a Hezbollah stronghold, and I later discovered that those men were martyrs. Tacky photos covered the front door of a wonderfully friendly pizza shop, whose proprietor loved to crack dirty jokes. When eating with him, I would never have assumed he was a Hezbollah supporter. He was too friendly. He humbled me, and a sharp line was drawn in my mind between men and the politics that often overshadow them.

On the other side of the border, a Jewish friend of mine was sending daily reports from Tel Aviv. His fervent efforts to convince me that the suffering of his people was comparable did nothing but incense me. However, as the days passed, his friends were called away one by one, marching off to war. He may have been comfortably ensconced in Tel Aviv, enjoying a level of security that no other Lebanese city could boast, but the ripples of conflict had certainly lapped at his feet, and for this I was humbled once again.

War stacks irony upon irony. Another Jewish friend of mine was almost killed when Israel bombed the port of Jounieh. A Lebanese-American friend, who only weeks earlier had tearfully hugged an Israeli student at a peace and conflict symposium we were all attending in Cyprus, lost her eleven-year-old cousin to an explosion. My first friend is now questioning his faith, whereas the second is questioning her friendships. Where once there was innocence and no experience of war, there's now nothing but psychological turmoil and hate.

I had to leave Lebanon. I'd spent two weeks there already, arriving only three days before the war commenced, expecting nothing more than delicious food and world-famous hospitality. This isn't to say that I wasn't well fed or well treated. The man who ran my empty hostel treated me like a grandson, as he was obviously concerned that a 20-year-old foreigner was travelling through his war-torn country alone. We would eat dinner together every night, devouring whole plates of exquisite chicken taouk and stacking little mountains of naked apricot pits.

When it was finally time for me to evacuate, I was taken back to Beirut at midnight, chauffeured by a man who was choosing to risk his life on my behalf. We'd driven around Bcharré a fair amount over the previous few days, and we'd become good friends.

When we left the town at one of the most dangerous times he kissed his wife and children goodbye, and promised he would be home in a few hours. Instead, he slept in the back seat of his car outside of my hostel in Beirut, wanting to make sure that I was well taken care of until the very end. It was one of the most generous and compassionate moments of my life.

The evacuation itself was a dream—or a collection of terrible vignettes that I can't seem to piece together. The waves rocked us fiercely on our way to Turkey, and I had to shut my eyes tight so as to not see each person, seat-by-seat and row-by-row, vomit into their cupped hands. Once, when I was awoken from my sleep, I watched a woman fall to the ground, as her skin turned the colour of porcelain. Her chest wasn't moving. The crew performed an emergency intubation and she was taken away by ambulance when we docked spontaneously at Famagusta in Cyprus. I still don't know what happened to her.

Another time, my eyes still crusted with sleep, I watched a group of screaming children receive emergency intravenous fluids; they had spent so many hours vomiting, they were delirious with fatigue and dehydration. The cabin smelled sickly and sour, and fumes from spilled gasoline filled the air. This is what became of us.

I've witnessed many migrations in my life, but I'd never been part of one myself. Last summer, I watched thousands of children build makeshift beds in the streets of Gulu, fleeing the prospect of kidnapping and child soldiery in rural Northern Uganda. My own grandparents fled from Germany during WWII. But in truth, I never imagined such a forced migration would fall to me.

The night before I left Bcharré, I asked a Lebanese mother what was happening on the news. All broadcasts were in Arabic, and I depended upon constant translation. She turned to me with infinite sadness in her eyes, her eight children dozing peacefully in the adjacent room, and asked: “What do you care? You're leaving.”

I urge you, whoever you are, to treat the refugees of the world with kindness. This world is far too complex to draw distinctions between the good and the evil, and our lives are far too unpredictable to assume that we will never face such overwhelming tragedy. Indeed, we are all of us inhabitants of divided houses, and yet we all too often mistake each other for thieves.



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Calgary dwelling on minor details

CALGARY'S CITY COUNCIL PASSED A MOTION on Monday that outlined a research study to review illegal housing units within the city. Many of these suites—estimated to be around 50 000 in total—are considered illegal because of zoning bylaws. For example, some of the residential areas of the city are zoned for single-family dwellings, making basement suites and the like against the law.

Some of the councillors that support the motion argue that allowing multiple tenants in such zones would lower property values in the surrounding area, while others feel that some of the suites that have been converted from basements might not stack up to the City's building codes and could put renters in danger.

While making sure that any secondary suites have proper electrical, plumbing and heating systems is both reasonable and necessary, City councillors calling for a crackdown on secondary suites because of zoning issues are misguided. Simply put, Calgary has a booming economy and one of the lowest vacancy rates in Canada, currently hovering around the area of 0.6 per cent. All indications show that the number of available homes will continue to decrease as more and more people search for a place to call home.

The need for affordable, available housing in Calgary is one that far outweighs concerns over property values, especially in a city where the price for a newly built home has jumped 56 per cent in the last year alone, according to the *Ottawa Business Journal*. Enforcing the single-family zoning bylaw would cause serious problems for the thousands of people living in those 50 000-plus secondary units—namely, homelessness. What's more, many of them are presumably students, seniors and single parents whose limited finances would make it all but impossible to secure any other housing in a city where the average home is going for over \$350 000.

At this stage, City Council has only approved a study on the illegal suites in the city and hasn't yet made any decision on what, if any, action will be taken on the issue. That said, some of the sponsors of the motion have already gone on record stating that they eventually hope to eliminate suites in areas zoned for single-family dwellings.

The City's time and resources could be better spent making sure that any suites are up to code and that those living in them are safe. For a city in dire need of housing, any move to eliminate secondary suites for the sake of property values should be kicked swiftly to the curb.

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Bush's tactics old hat

ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS, George Bush wasted no time in inciting fresh fears in his people that the US is "safer, but we are not yet safe" and that his nation is involved in a "struggle for civilizations."

Despite the US system of fixed election dates, one hardly needs a calendar when pre-election rhetoric such as this starts flying. And with the US congressional mid-term elections date fast approaching, the scare tactics are predictably being applied yet again.

While this process involves electing members of the House of Representatives—and not, you know, the president—Congress members control which of the Bush administration's policies become political reality. As such, keeping enough Republicans on his side is Bush's main objective here, and what better way than to scare the electorate into thinking that only his party can protect them?

You don't have to be a disciple of Noam Chomsky to know that a scared population is an obedient one—and one that's willing to sacrifice civil liberties in exchange for promises of safety at the same time. Bush and co know this well, and that's exactly their plan of attack, if you'll pardon the pun. The scariest part: what happens when there's something to be truly terrified about? It appears that Bush and co haven't heard the one about the boy who cried wolf after all.

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Gateway breaks cardinal rule of journalism

Only into the second week of the new school year and the *Gateway* has once again proven why the University of Alberta is in dire need of a Journalism program.

Believe it or not, my grievance is not with the opinion writers or the irrelevant news stories. It is with the blatant disregard for the cardinal rule of front-page photography.

Barring the championship win or loss of the local team of any sport, a sports picture should never be on the front page. This shows a lack of imagination and artistic capability. It screams, "Hey, we have nothing to put on the front page so let's slap on a picture that delivers no news and no thought."

Printing a sports photo on the front page represents the second lowest form of newspaper journalism, only to be outdone by the now-defunct *Dose's* blatant use of advertising on the front page.

We may not have the best newspapers in the world, but check out the latest issue of the *Globe and Mail* and even the *National Post* or the *Edmonton Journal*. You will not find any sports on the front page.

Sports is not news. Please, keep it off the cover and bury it in the "Sports" section where it belongs.

BRAD RICHERT
Philosophy/Religious Studies IV

Breakfast faithful baffled by Powerplant's switch-over siesta

Although I realize that the Powerplant was in need of some sort of restructuring due to the massive monetary losses happening over the last few years, I have to question one of the methods.

One large problem must obviously be that revenue isn't sufficient. So what was one tactic imposed by management? Shut the place down for the peak breakfast time from 10–11am.

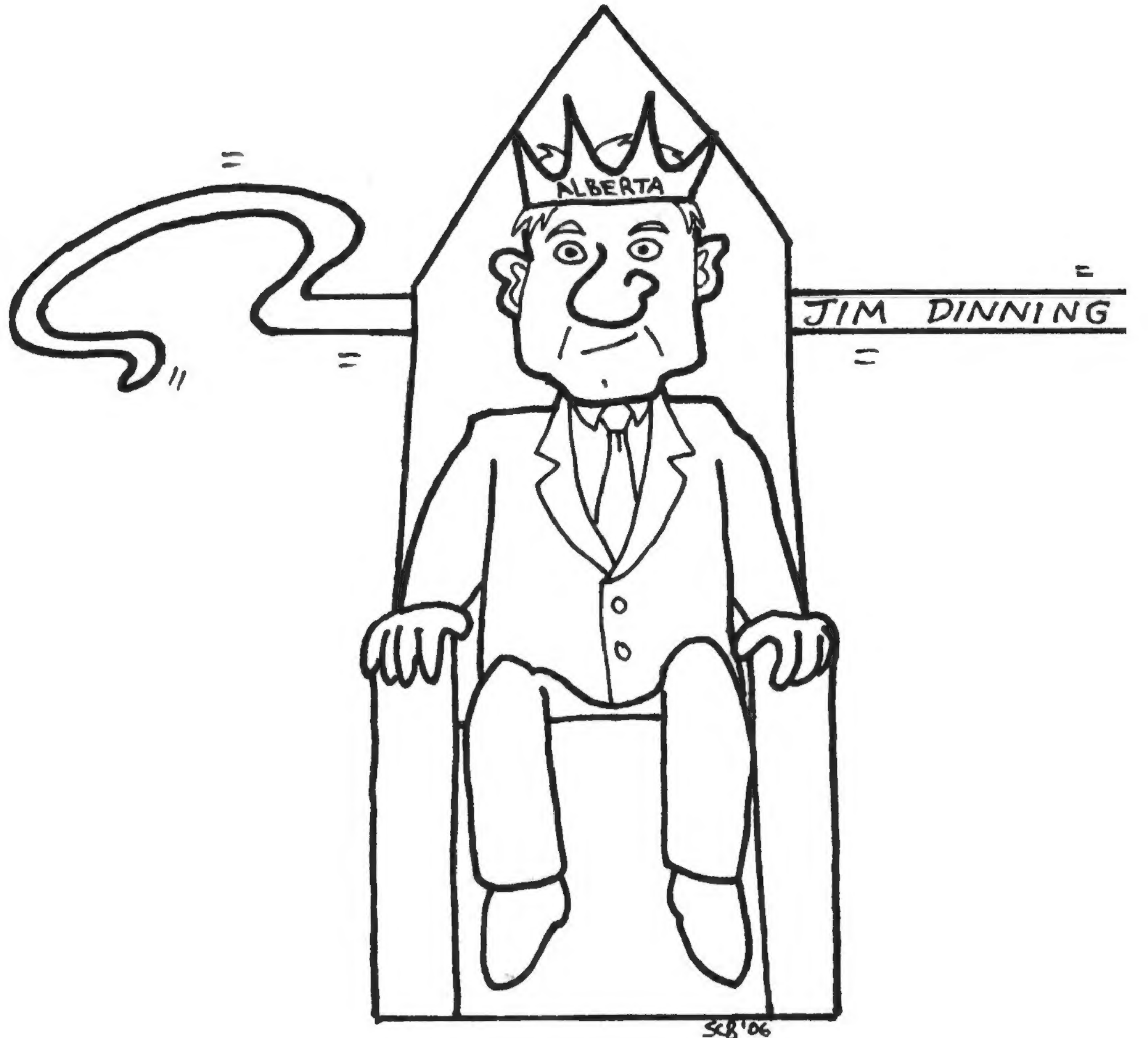
Now I'm part of a large group of friends who have made it a five-year tradition to go for 'Plant breakfast at 10am on Fridays every week, pretty much religiously. We plan our school schedules around it.

So it was a huge disappointment when we found out that even though the place had been open since 7:30am, the doors locked us out at 10am so they could prepare for this almighty 'Plant-salvaging buffet idea.

We were quite upset that we couldn't go give the 'Plant some money and enjoy our long-lived tradition. We even would have paid a bit more for the meals if necessary. Especially considering that in previous years this was a very busy time in there even without our posse, this doesn't make much sense. We even talked to a waitress who was irritated at sending away an hour's worth of tips.

Powerplant, please give us the best part of our week back. We want to throw our money at you, if you'll let us.

MICHAEL KENNEDY
Mechanical Engineering V



'Plant's new buffet likely won't cater to this diet

As an avid supporter of putting things in mouths, I found that Kim Misutka's report on freshman diets (re: "Weight gain a heavy issue," 12 September) raised some very disturbing suggestions. Subway, fifty blueberries and a Figaroo for lunch? What is this, the Blitz?

Students truly interested in maintaining their figure ought to stick to the real university diet: coffee, cigarettes, and prescription amphetamines.

JAMES STORRIE
Arts IV

Article on youth offends legal beagle

While reading Evan Smith's article on being a minor in university (re: "Pity the minor minority," 12 September), I noticed a disappointing error. Smith references the Young Offenders Act, which was replaced by the Youth Criminal Justice Act on 1 April 2003.

It is not as if this is a recent change. I am appalled that a university student would not know the name of the current legislation regarding youths and crime. I am even more appalled that a writer for the campus newspaper would not check his references and by doing so, miseducate his fellow peers.

SAMARA BIRCH
Criminology II

Boob tube no match for commercial-free DVD

In response to your article "I can't

watch TV anymore" (12 September), I don't know if I can resist tuning in for the new season of *Veronica Mars*, but other than that, I'm with you when it comes to swearing off trying to watch series on TV.

The last straw for me came when I discovered the series *Farscape* playing in syndication on WGN. I'd always heard great things about it, but the show seemed to make no sense to me—that is, when it wasn't being moved around or pre-empted for baseball. So I decided it wasn't for me and gave up.

Months later, a friend insisted that I borrow her *Farscape* DVDs, which is when I realized that WGN had been skipping some episodes and showing two seasons simultaneously.

What a difference it was to see the show in order, with no commercials and no pre-emptions. Because of the idiotic TV schedule, I had nearly missed out on one of the most fantastic series I've ever seen. So count me in for the DVD bandwagon. I'd much rather support my favourite shows directly anyway.

MICHELLE LEE
Via e-mail

Resident expert lauds Lister review

I'm glad to see that Amanda Ash presented a fair conclusion regarding Lister Hall (re: "rez the roof," 12 September). Listerites are far from the nuckle-dragging, STD-infested nudists that she initially projected. These neanderthals are actually the cream of the crop from every other high school that is outside of the Edmonton area.

Lister Hall takes your university experience to the next level. We

have a 1300-person Dodgeball league, great programs year-round, in-house academic support, tutors, volunteer opportunities, charity fundraisers—and yet we still throw the finest parties on campus. Just because our moms don't do our laundry doesn't make us any less mature than the countless students living at home.

Lister Hall fosters a sense of U of A pride that goes beyond anything I have felt elsewhere on Campus. Just look at WOW, Shinerama, the Students' Union, and the University as a whole: many are comprised of Lister Alumni. For 40 years Lister Hall has been the breeding ground not for a new strand of HIV, but for the leaders of tomorrow.

Want to know the best thing about Rezfest? All proceeds from the 1200 attendees are donated to the Cross Cancer Institute. I encourage all readers possessing misguided stereotypes of Lister to get to know some Listerites—just look for the dodgeball shirts.

MICHAEL JANZ
Lister Hall President

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

To be considered for publication, letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author.